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MARCH 2001

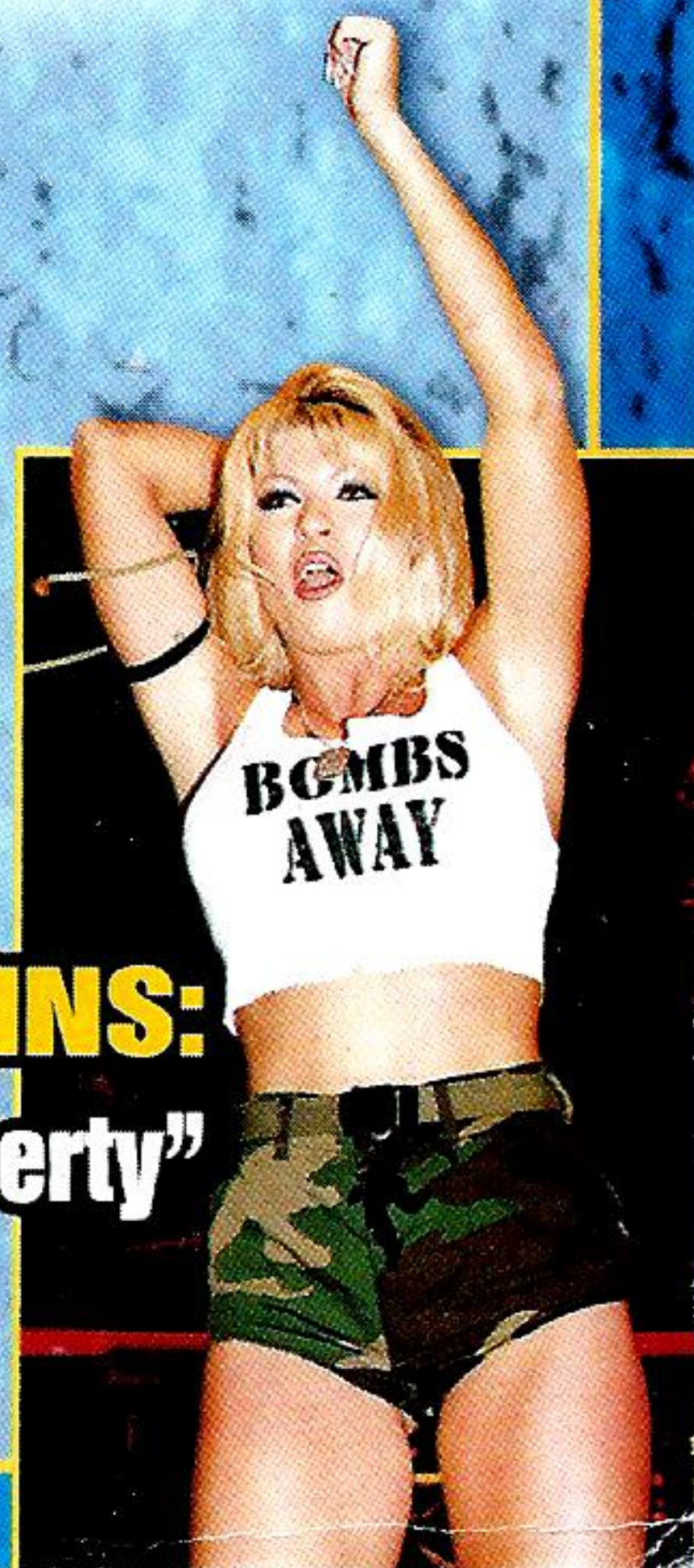
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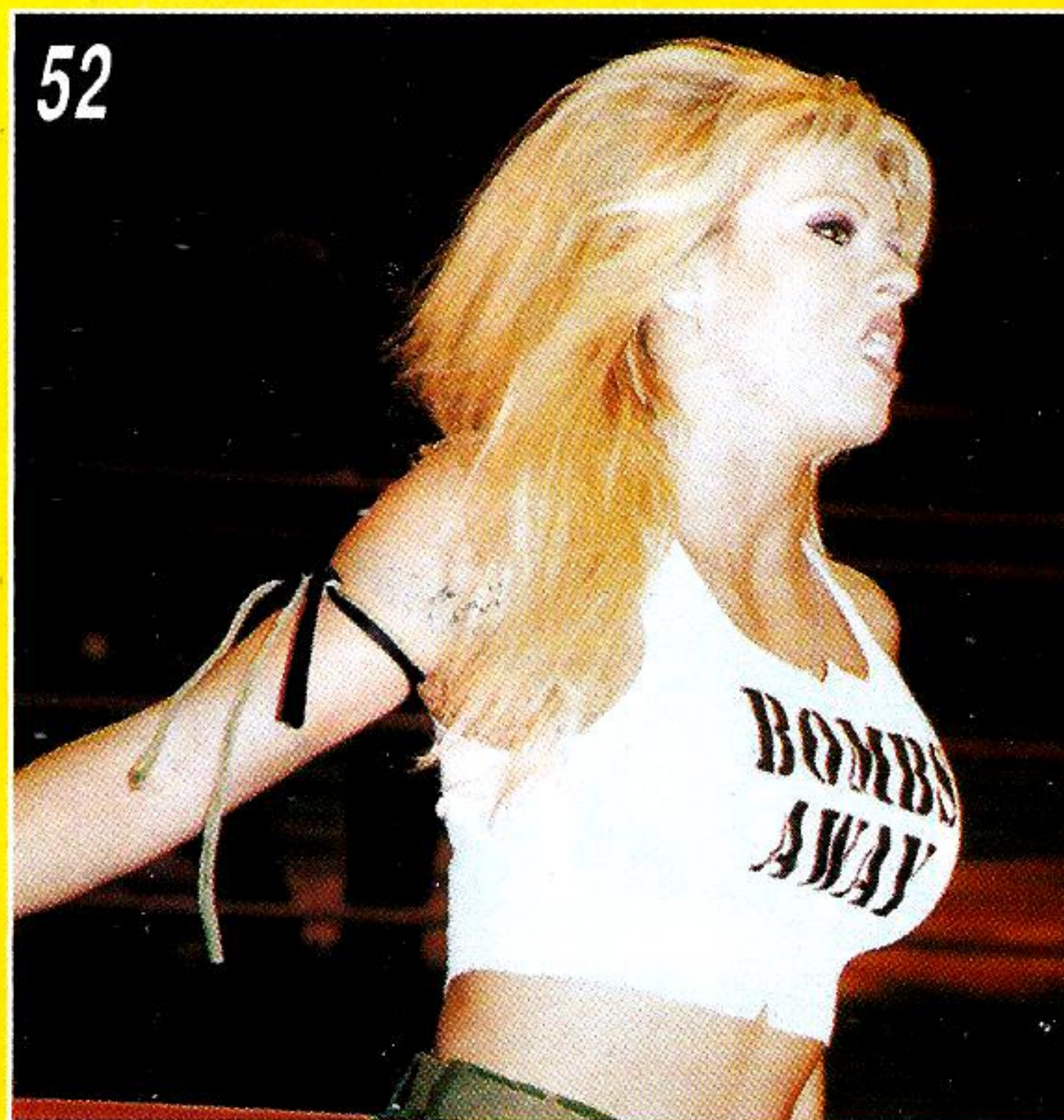
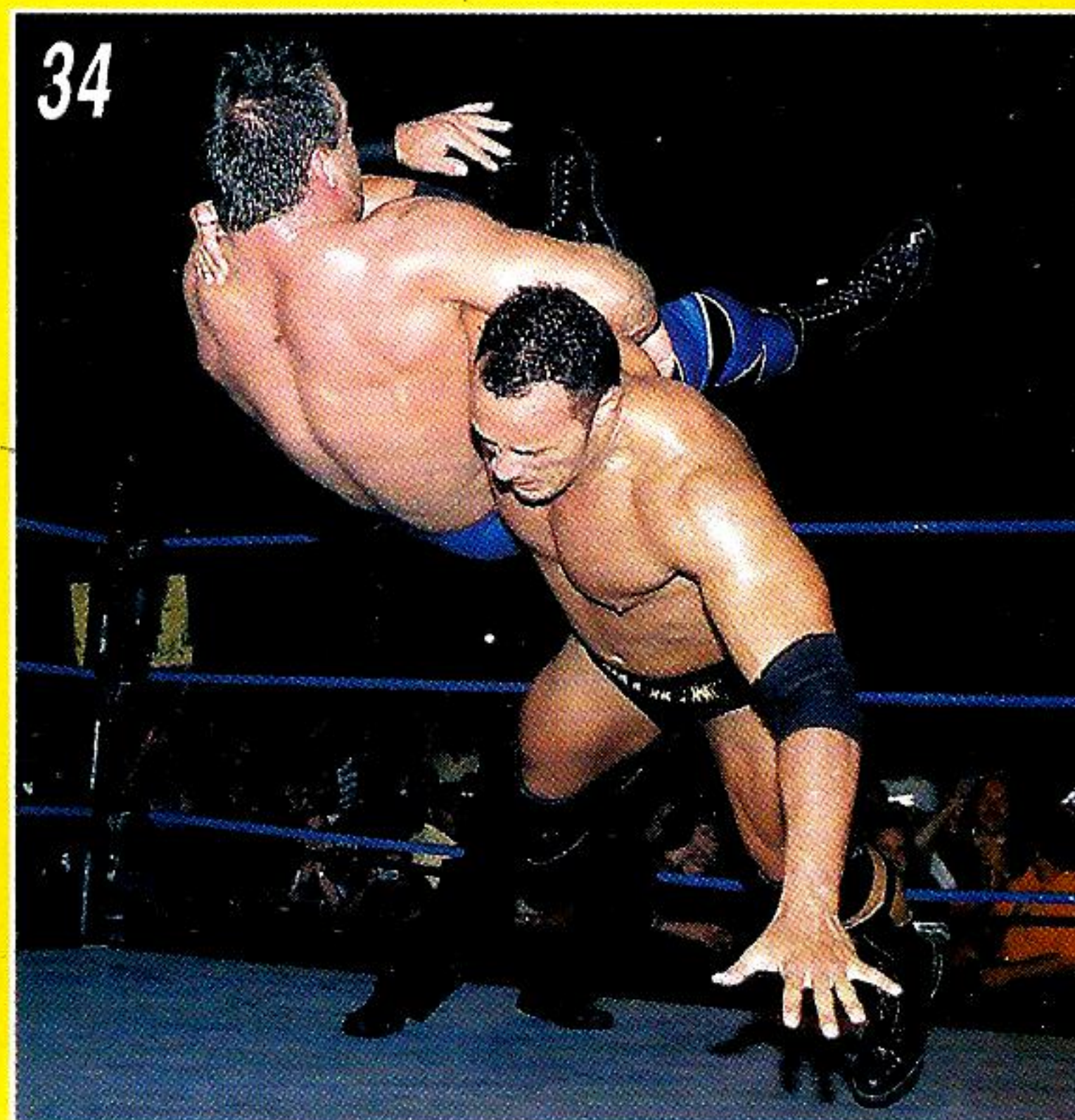
- 4 SINCERELY YOURS
- 6 REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK *by Stu Saks*
- 8 NAMES MAKIN' NEWS *by Frank Krewda*
- 10 ON THE ROAD *with Dave Lenker*
- 12 BEHIND THE DRESSING ROOM DOOR *by Dave Rosenbaum*
- 14 THE INSIDER *by Brandi Mankiewicz*
- 16 ON ASSIGNMENT *by Liz Hunter*
- 18 CAPSULE PROFILE #300: RAVEN
- 20 WHATEVER HAPPENED TO ... *by Scott Teal*
- 22 NEWS FROM THE WRESTLING CAPITALS
- 24 MATT BROCK'S PLAIN SPEAKING
- 56 ONE ON ONE: KURT ANGLE vs. TRIPLE-H
- 60 WRESTLING TIMELINE: 1985
- 80 OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS
- 81 INSIDE WRESTLING ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS
- 82 BLAST FROM THE PAST

FEATURES

- 26 BUTT SERIOUSLY, BILLY ...
DON'T LET THIS OPPORTUNITY FALL THROUGH THE CRACKS!
He flopped in the singles division before. This could be his last shot
- 30 STUNG WHERE IT HURTS!
JARRETT IS MAKING A BAD IMPRESSION ON THE WRONG MAN!
And is that a very big mistake on his part?
- 34 WHO KNOWS THE ROCK'S ROLE?
IS HE DITCHING WRESTLING FOR HOLLYWOOD?
The offers are certainly there for him
- 40 YOU CAN'T SPELL ECW WITHOUT C.W.
HOW COULD A MID-CARDER BE SO VALUABLE?
There are a lot of reasons, actually
- 44 BOOKER T:
"GOLDBERG'S NOT THE FUTURE OF WCW—I AM!"
The WCW champ had a lot he needed to say in "Hotseat"
- 48 TRISH STRATUS: "THE WWF NEEDS MORE T & A!"
Uh, maybe we better let her explain that one
- 52 MAJOR GUNNS' MAJOR DISTRESS:
"EVERYBODY WANTS ME TO BE THEIR PROPERTY"
Doesn't anyone care about her feelings?

COVER PHOTO:
The Rock by James McAfee

COVER DESIGN:
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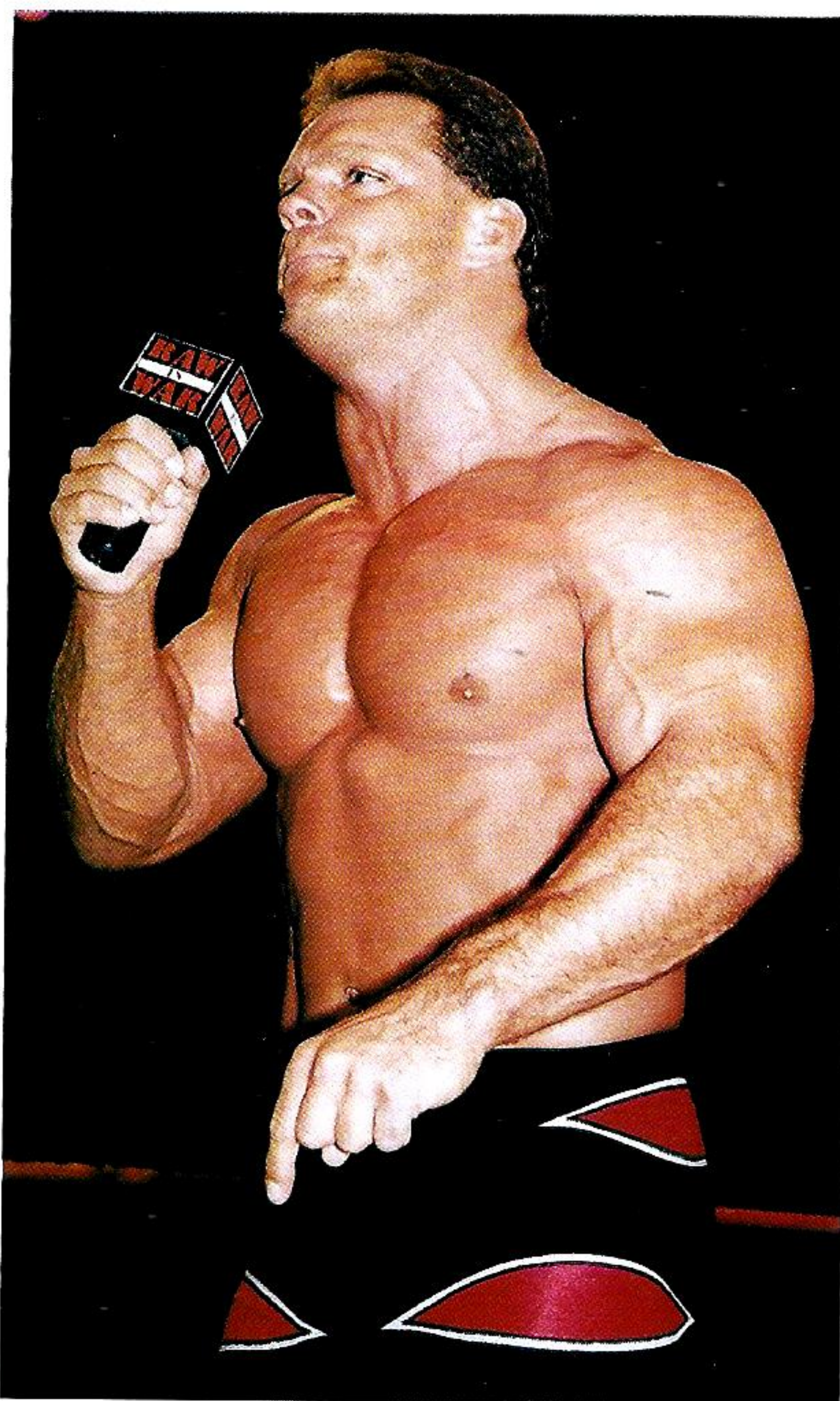
BEAUTIFUL BENOIT?

I am writing this letter in response to Dave Rosenbaum's November 2000 "Behind The Dressing Room Door" column. Yes, some women find Rikishi sexy, but I don't. I find Chris Benoit sexy—very sexy, in fact. Yes, I find the most intense wrestler in the WWF

quite irresistible. Mr. Benoit oozes sexuality every time he goes to the ring, is in the ring, and when he leaves the ring. He keeps his sexuality under wraps, but believe me, it's there.

I long to see him pose in a cheesecake manner, but the rabid "Wolverine" won't ever do that. But I can dream, can't I?

ANITA SEEKFORD
Pensacola, FL



We know Chris Benoit is intense, but is he sexy? Well, reader Anita Seekford thinks so. She dreams of the day "The Crippler" will pose in *Playgirl* the way Chyna did in *Playboy*. Anita, keep dreaming.

GEE, THANKS

I must say that I find *INSIDE WRESTLING*'s new all-color format very refreshing. Here's a well-deserved "Good job!" to everyone involved.

FRANK HARTIGAN
Barrington, NJ

I think your new "Timeline" feature in *INSIDE WRESTLING* is great! Just thought I'd pass that along.

TIM BYRON
Mitchellville, TN



Presenting your new WWF lieutenant commissioner ... Debra! That's right, the blonde bombshell was appointed by none other than Mick Foley. Reader Bill Hoxworth questions the decision.

WHO'S IN CHARGE OF WHAT?

Is Mick Foley's job really so hard that he needs a lieutenant commissioner? Is he really that overworked? And why pick Debra, "Stone-Cold" Steve Austin's wife, for the position? So she can make decisions that go Austin's way without it looking like Foley's playing favorites? Gimme a break!

For a time, I thought Foley was doing a decent job as WWF commissioner. Now, however, I wish Shawn Michaels never relinquished the position.

BILL HOXWORTH
Stanton, KY

I can't believe that WCW brought back Ric Flair as the promotion's new chief executive officer. What do all these organizational titles mean anymore, anyway?

For a while there in WCW, you had Ernest "The Cat" Miller and Mike Sanders both claiming the office of the commissioner, and that was just one huge mess. They both overrode each other's decisions, so nothing got done. But then Sanders beat The Cat at Halloween Havoc to win the sole commissioner'ship of WCW. That night, I wasn't too pleased that Sanders won the match—I would have preferred to have seen Miller emerge victorious—but I was glad there wouldn't be two people canceling each other out at every *Nitro* and *Thunder*. But then Flair was brought back, and it's happening all over again.

It's time that wrestling companies stop giving positions of power to wrestlers and start giving them to people who have backgrounds in business administration. No wonder WCW is such a joke.

GEORGE ARENTZER
Archer, FL

MAKES US LAUGH, TOO

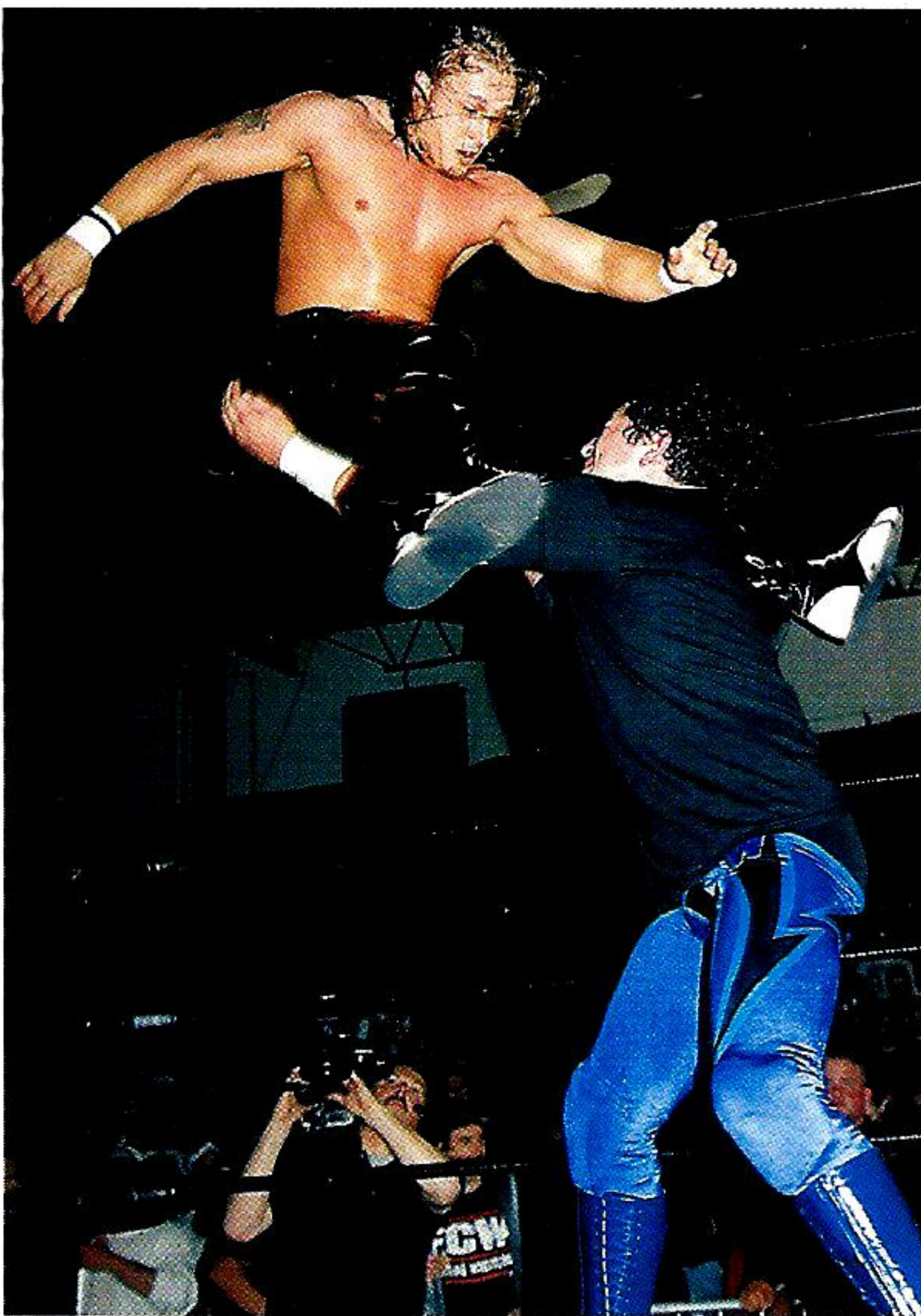
Vince Russo's Stacy Keibler/David Flair storyline was supposed to be Russo's coup de grace?

Ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha!

ROGER McGRATH
Wilbur, WA

KID KASH ROCKS

I'm glad to see that you guys at *INSIDE WRESTLING* finally gave Kid Kash some respect ("Kash As Kash Can: Wrestling Is Kid Stuff For ECW's Newest Star!" January 2001). Before your story was pub-



We printed a glowing story about ECW's Kid Kash (shown against Super Crazy) in our January 2001 issue. Reader Martin Waterman was glad to see the 10-year veteran get some press.

lished, I'm sure a whole lot of fans didn't know Kash had toiled on the independent circuit for 10 years while waiting for his break. I used to watch him all the time, back when he wrestled as both David Kash and David Jericho, and I was always impressed. Now that he's in ECW and has won the promotion's TV title, I don't see how his career could do anything but get bigger and better than it already is.

Thanks for devoting a few pages to this budding superstar.

MARTIN WATERMAN
Charlotte, NC

GUNN-ING FOR THE TOP

Although I'm a big fan of Major Gunns and the Misfits In Action, I wish the bodacious blonde had remained with Team Canada. I had never seen such a creative use of the Canadian maple leaf in all of my life.

GREGORY A. PATEL
Hobgood, NC
(Continued on page 72)

INSIDE Wrestling

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REPORTER'S notebook

By Stu Saks

The mailman gave me a dirty look this morning as he dropped yet another plastic gray mail bin at my feet. "It's almost over," I assured him. He growled.

The voting deadline for the *PWI* Achievement Awards issue (April 2001) was about three weeks away at the time and the winners will be known by the time this magazine hits the stands. At this point, roughly 70 percent of the votes received have been tabulated, and while we have a pretty good idea of which wrestlers are going to win some of the awards, others are—and I hate to use this all-too-familiar vernacular—too close to call.

There will be no, I repeat no, projections made! We've seen how damaging premature projections can be to the voting process, as well as to the credibility of those making such calls. I will say this: The big one—Wrestler of the Year—is as close as any race I've ever seen. I can't say much more, but I will throw out these tidbits:

—Four names have come up on the ballots of more than 90 percent of the votes tabulated to date, and the real race will be between two of those four.

—The winner will be a first-time honoree in the Wrestler of the Year category.

—Forty-four percent of wrestlers who have finished number one in the "*PWI* 500" have gone on to be voted Wrestler of the Year. Twenty-two percent of wrestlers who have finished number two in the "500" have won the award. (Now there's a subtle hint!)

—No ballots have arrived with more than one vote cast for Wrestler of the Year, there have been no votes cast for Pat Buchanan, and, with or without a court order, all ballots will receive a hand count.

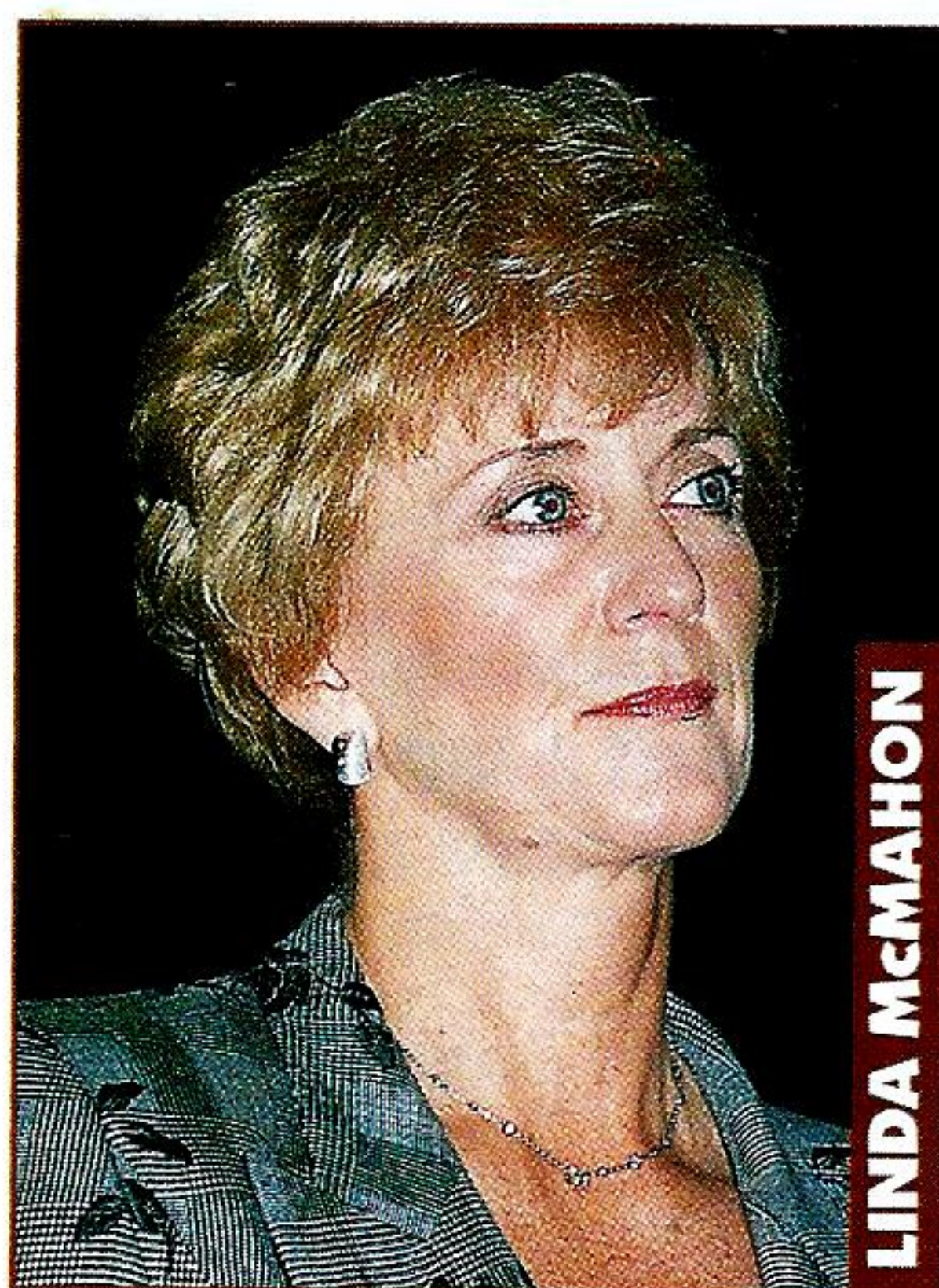
The big day for the issue we call "The Big One" is January 23. I know a couple of guys who live in Miami and Greenwich who will be checking their mailbox early that morning.

NAMES makin' news

By Frank Krewda

WHAT COULD HAVE been one of the biggest stories—if not *the* biggest story—in wrestling history isn't going to happen after all.

For weeks, the hottest rumor in the business was that the WWF was on the verge of purchasing WCW from Time Warner. And while Time Warner may have sold WCW by the time you read this, WWF CEO **Linda McMahon** said during the first week of



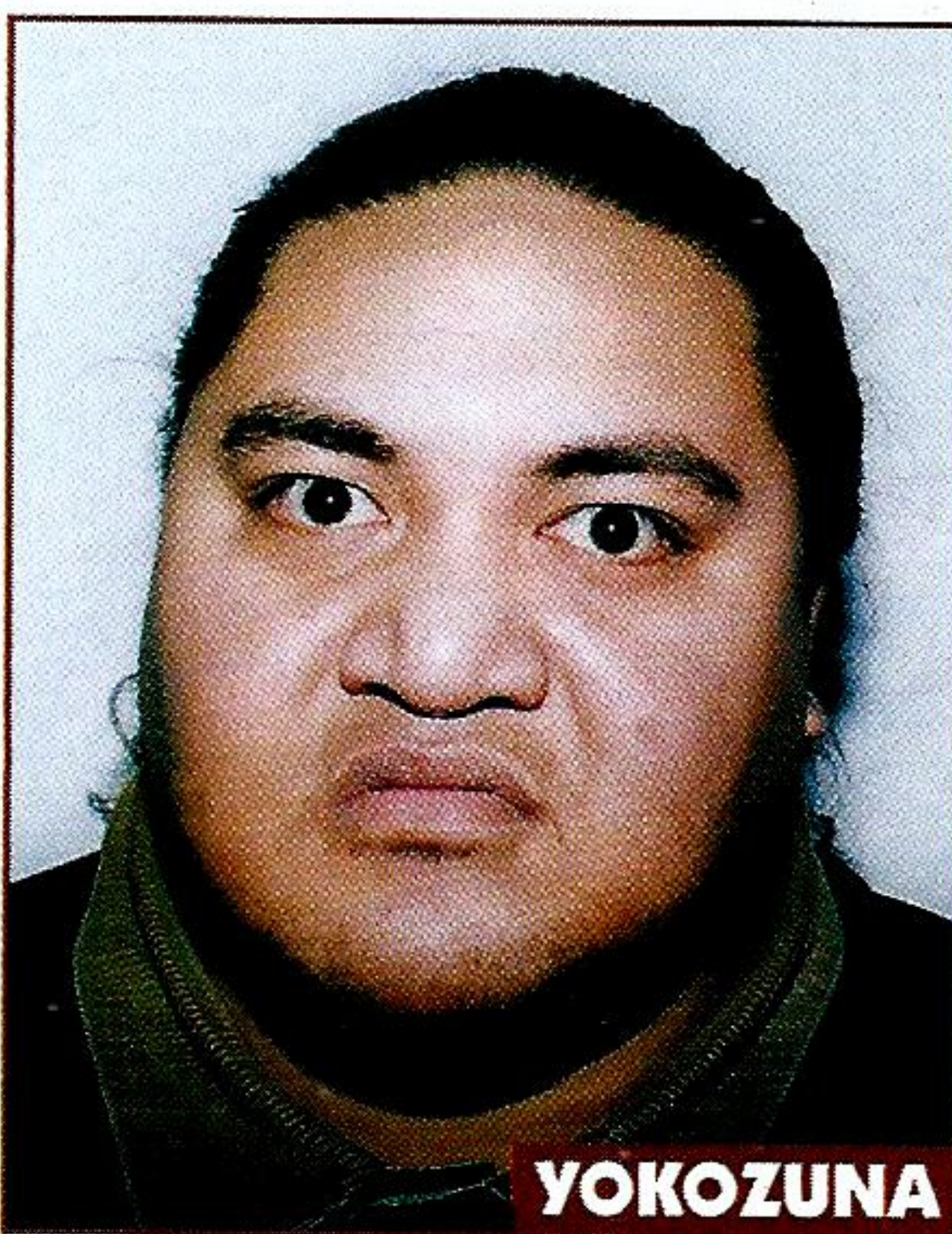
LINDA MCMAHON

November that while the WWF had been negotiating to purchase WCW for a while, it no longer had any interest in doing so. This was good news to many who feared that the McMahons would have had too much control over the industry had they bought WCW. Others thought **Vince McMahon** would have stretched himself too thin by trying to run the WWF, help fix WCW, and launch the XFL at the same time.

It was looking more and more likely at press time that Time Warner would retain WCW even after its merger with America Online and perhaps try to cut back on expenses and

payroll even more drastically.

You probably know by now that two-time former WWF World heavyweight champion **Yokozuna** (real name **Rodney Anoa'i**) was found



YOKOZUNA

dead in his hotel room in Liverpool, England, on October 23.

Anoa'i, who won the title twice in 1993, was often credited with being the most nimble big man in the game during the height of his popularity (or notoriety—after all, he was one of the most hated wrestlers in WWF history). But as Anoa'i grew into his role as master sumo wrestler in the WWF, the extra weight proved difficult to keep off. In fact, because the New York State Athletic Commission would not license him to wrestle, the WWF really had no choice but to keep him off its roster.

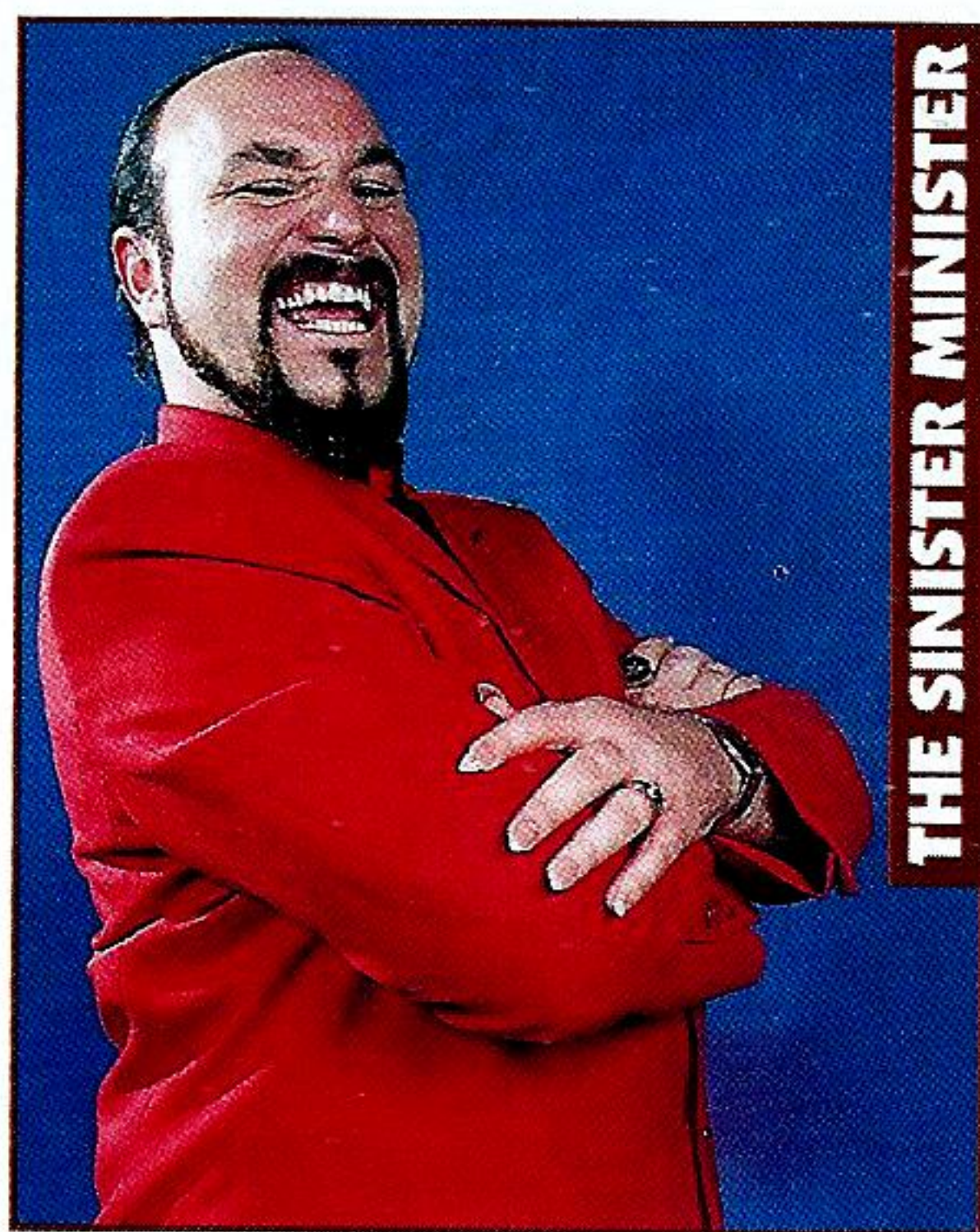
Though no one could confirm Anoa'i's exact weight at the time of his death, it's believed he was close to 600 pounds.

It's nice to see that the WWF is placing a greater emphasis on conditioning among the wrestlers on its roster. **Mark Henry** and **The Big Show** were both sent to Ohio Valley Wrestling to shed some pounds, and **Jim**

Ross even hinted in one of his "Ross Report" columns that **Rikishi** might want to slim down a bit. While a weight gain was the catalyst for his renewed popularity, Rikishi would be better off in the long run if he were to compete at a lighter weight.

Now to get really preachy, here's a lesson for us all: Playing with matches and dancing with the devil could be hazardous to your health.

Just ask **James Mitchell**, a.k.a. **The Sinister Minister**, who lost a



THE SINISTER MINISTER

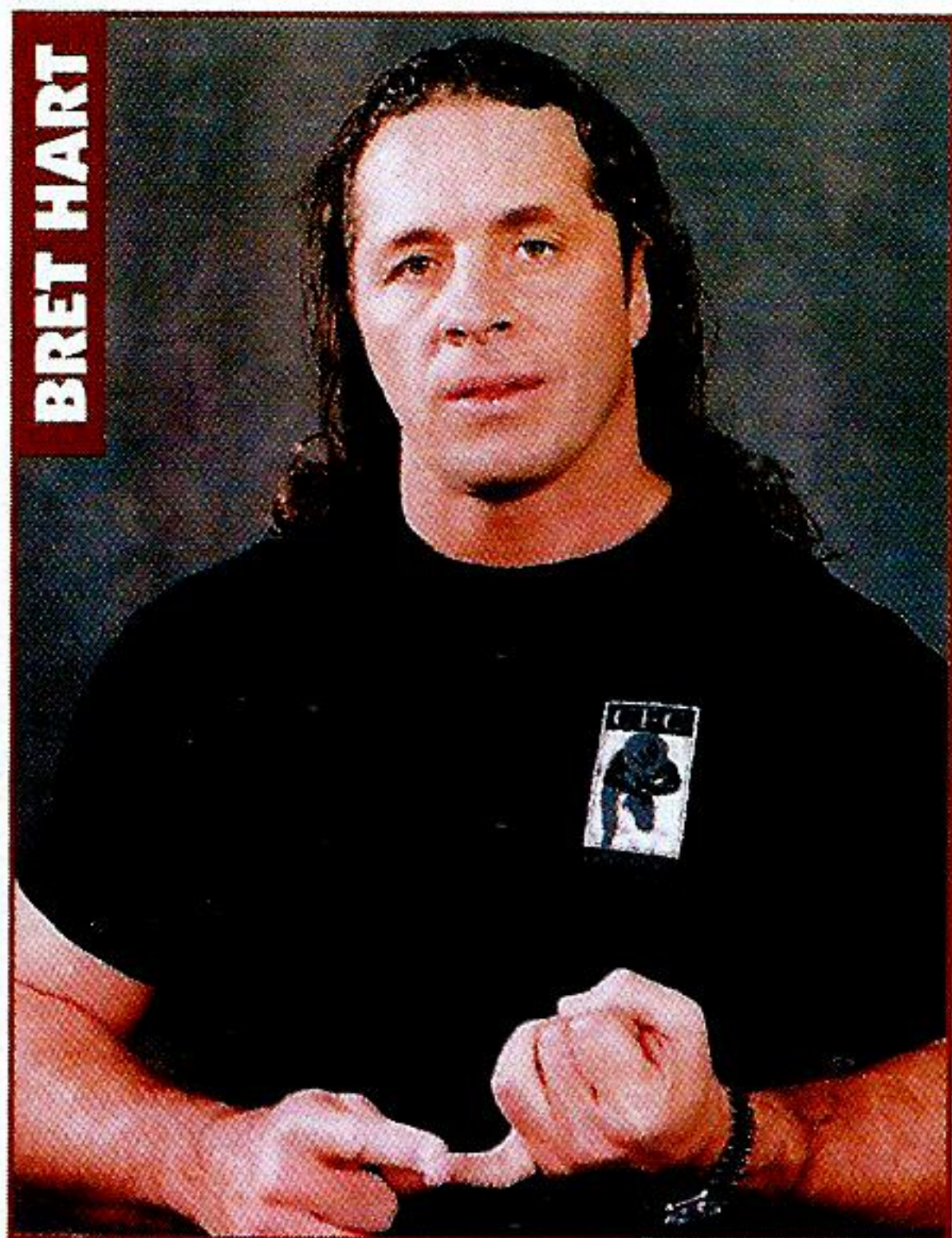
piece of his left index finger and suffered tendon and nerve damage to several other fingers after a pipe-like device exploded in his grip backstage at November to Remember while practicing a fireball trick.

Mitchell, who said from his hospital bed that he'd performed the trick hundreds of times before and had surgery to remove shrapnel from his stomach, hand, and wrist, has always dabbled in pseudo-evil gimmicks. But his latest role is the most bizarre of all, and you have to wonder if Mitchell has given any thought to changing said gimmick. This will sound silly to some, but there is such a thing as bad karma. A setback like this would prompt me to get

a shave, clip my nails, and hang up my red suit for good.

Having said that, I think Mitchell has been brilliant in his portrayal and damn entertaining. We certainly hope he makes a speedy recovery. ECW could use his vast talent.

Bret Hart's superb career has finally come to an end. WCW officially



BRET HART

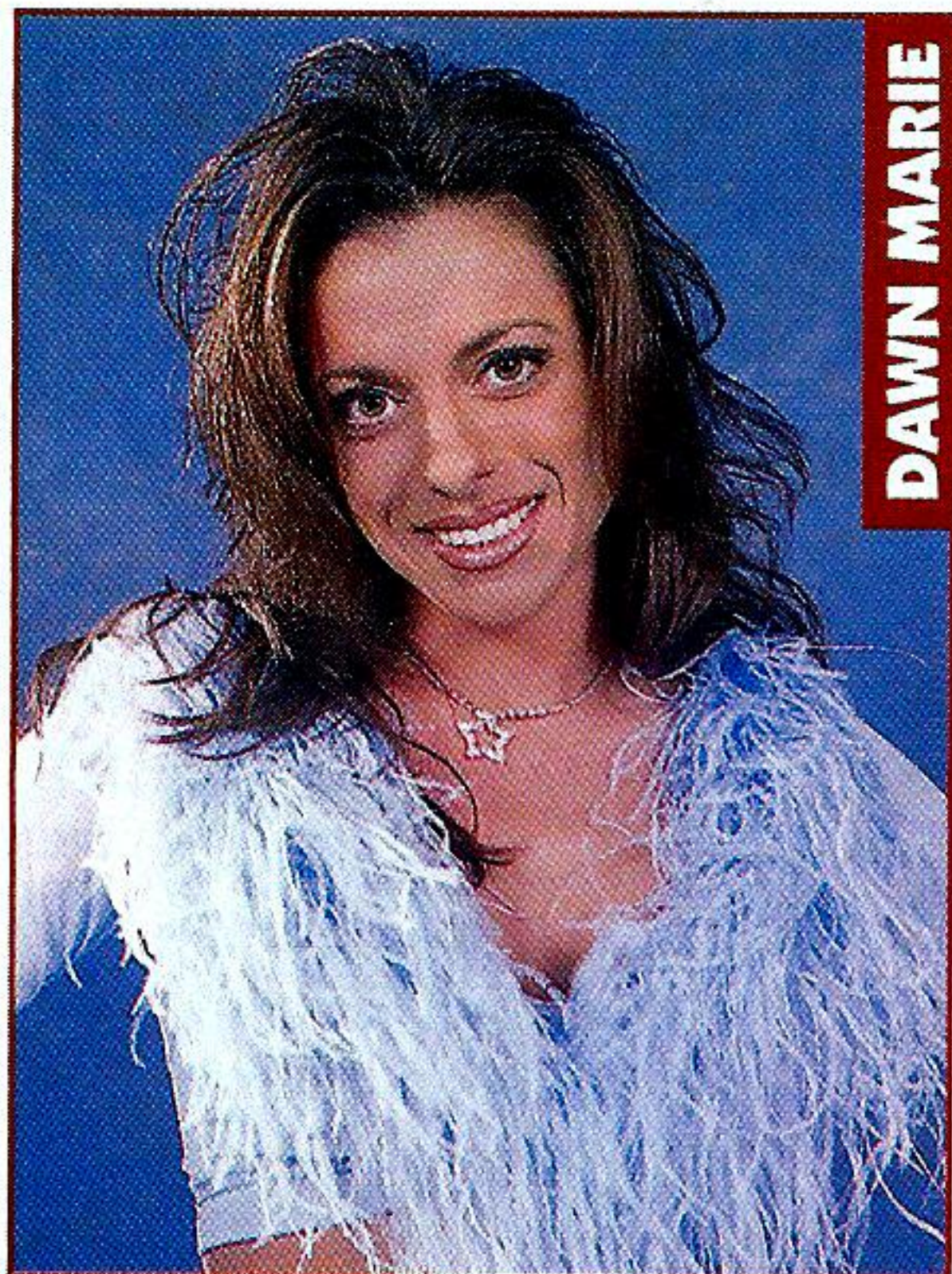
terminated the "Hitman" on October 20 in its usual classy fashion: via Federal Express letter. Turner Entertainment President **Brad Siegel** cited Hart's ongoing concussion problem as the reason for the firing. A few days later in his *Calgary Sun* column, Bret officially announced his retirement.

As a business decision, you can hardly fault Siegel for doing what he did. There's little use for a fortysomething wrestler who can't deliver a promo without getting dizzy or feeling nauseous—especially at a salary of more than \$1-million a year. But it's unfortunate that one of the sport's all-time greats will go out in a storm of complaints and gripes. It's also unfortunate that Bret was the one hurling them—usually from the pages of the *Calgary Sun*.

Thanks for a great career, "Hitman." Congratulations to **Steve Corino**, who won the ECW World heavyweight title at November to Remember when he pinned **The Sandman**, then **Justin Credible** in a "Double Jeopardy" match on November 5.

"This is a dream come true," Corino told me. "You guys know I've been a lifelong fan. I've been getting your magazine since I was a little kid, and I've dreamed of being a world champ just as long."

Bloodied and battered, Corino had to overcome a ringside attack from **Dawn Marie**, who had claimed she



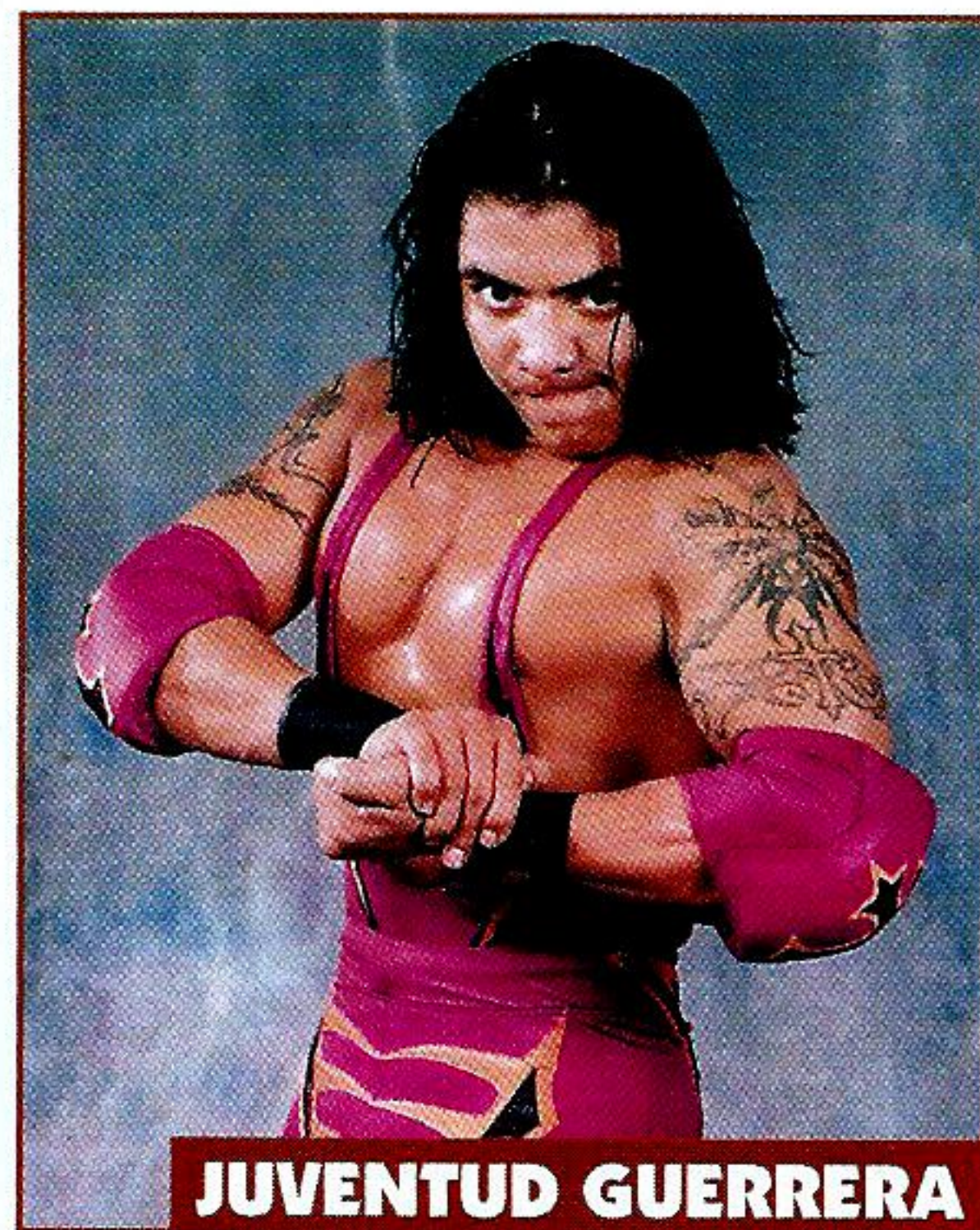
DAWN MARIE

was squarely behind Corino for the match. Halfway through the bout, however, she betrayed her former friend and delivered a low blow that nearly cost Corino the match.

"Steve Corino is an ass," Dawn blurted. "Did you see the way he kept me in the background? I'm the star of ECW. Not Steve Corino, even if he has the title belt."

More sad news: Former AWA tag team champion and original San Francisco 49er **Leo Nomellini** died of complications from a stroke on October

17. "The Lion" held the straps with **Wilbur Snyder** in 1961. He was 76 ... **Juventud Guerrera** was fired from



JUVENTUD GUERRERA

WCW in early-October after going on a drug-induced rampage while the federation was touring Australia. According to eyewitnesses, Juvi stripped off his clothes and threatened to kill himself. Finally, several police officers and wrestlers subdued the Luchadore. Fortunately for Guerrera, after pleading guilty to several crimes, he only had to pay a fine of about \$1,850.

Former New Japan superstar **Genichiro Tenryu** won the All-Japan Triple Crown by beating **Toshiaki Kawada** in a tournament final on October 28. The win was doubly sweet for Tenryu since it probably ruffled former All-Japan standout **Mitsuharu Misawa**, who now wrestles for and runs Pro Wrestling NOAH. Tenryu recently asked members of Misawa's NOAH federation to appear on an All-Japan card that was also a tribute to Giant Baba, but Misawa refused, saying that since Baba never forgave Tenryu for jumping from All-Japan to New Japan several years ago, Tenryu shouldn't be wrestling on his benefit card. □

ON THE road

With Dave Lenker

JUST FOR THE RECORD, I wish Ric Flair the best of luck as the new CEO of WCW. In my opinion, a strong WCW is good for wrestling, and we haven't had a strong WCW in a long time. Like many other people, I'm alarmed by the idea of the WWF buying WCW. To me, that would have resulted in, for all intents and purposes, a wrestling monopoly. Wrestling fans, more than most people, should know that competition is good for everyone.



Ric Flair is a proud man. Earlier this year, he showed off his old NWA World heavyweight title. Just because he's had so many championship reigns, however, it doesn't necessarily mean Flair is going to be an effective CEO of WCW.

For example, in the mid-1990s, when the WWF was semi-strong and WCW was weak, WCW got stronger by competing with the WWF for talent. The result was a stronger, more entertaining WCW. When *Nitro* was beating *Raw* in the ratings week after week, Vince McMahon did everything in his power to make the WWF strong again. He succeeded. And now WCW is trying to turn around its fortunes.

The problem is, I don't think Flair is the right man for the job.

We found out about Flair's plans at the October 30, 2000, edition of *Nitro*. The "Nature Boy" showed up in a white stretch limousine, walked inside the building, and let everybody know that he was planning on taking the company back to the top. A lot of people thought this was a good thing. After all, Flair was an outstanding wrestler, a brilliant ringmaster who was just as good on the microphone as he was in the ring.

But there are reasons to be concerned about this:

1. Less than a year ago, Eric Bischoff and Vince Russo introduced a new era of WCW. In this new era, the young stars would get big pushes, and the old stars would start to step aside and let the new stars take over. Flair becoming CEO looks to me like another example of the old stars not stepping aside and trying to run the show.

2. Flair still has too many friends and enemies in wrestling.

3. We all know that Flair won't be able to resist the temptation to step back into the ring.

4. Former wrestlers invariably make for bad presidents, commissioners, CEOs ... whatever you want to call them. This is not only true in wrestling, but in all sports. Baseball's best commissioner over the past 40 years was Peter Ueberroth, a business executive and promoter. I'll quote from the Total Baseball Web site about Ueberroth:

"In this trim, composed, and self-confident executive, the owners finally acquired the leadership they knew was needed to deal with the complexities of contemporary life that were engulfing the baseball business. Ueberroth became the game's CEO. All departments and activities reported to him ... With concentrated power in his hands, Ueberroth demonstrated that his management style was to delegate responsibility. Although he took unilateral actions to tidy up baseball operations that he found 'in disarray,' he preferred to have problems solved by the people most closely involved."

Does anybody really expect Flair to be this type of CEO? Delegate responsibility?

(Continued on page 74)

BEHIND THE dressing room door

By Dave Rosenbaum

SEVERAL MONTHS AGO in this space, I asked the question, "What kind of person watches ECW?" I assumed anyone reading the column would realize I was being sarcastic and facetious (please look up those words in your dictionary, or take a moment to consult the glossary at the back of this magazine).

Ha! Gotcha! There is no glossary at the back of this magazine, and if you're the average ECW fan, your dictionary is buried deep beneath your prized stash of *Swank* and *Penthouse* magazines, so it's not going to be found anytime soon. See, that was a test, just like the five-question quiz I compiled under the heading "What kind of person watches ECW?" was a test. The test was that you were supposed to realize I was being sarcastic and facetious. You weren't supposed to answer the questions! Not at all! Instead, you were supposed to laugh at my biting wit and just keep on reading.

Uh-oh ... wait a second. While writing this column, I have been bouncing back and forth between my word processing program and ecwwrestling.com, and I seem to have stumbled (God knows how) upon a feature called Pervert Pics. There are pictures of Jasmin St. Claire in the shower. She's wearing more than you'd expect a person to wear in the shower (I don't know about you, but I take off my T-shirt and shorts before stepping in) and ... oh my God, now she's wearing as little as you'd expect a person to wear in the shower, which means *nothing!* Just a little green tattoo on the small of her back. Can't she take that off, too?

Sorry about that. That last para-

graph was neither sarcastic nor facetious. I think I might have inadvertently discovered what kind of person watches ECW. But, then again, why watch ECW on TV or in person when all of the good stuff is on the Web site?

Anyway, back to the purpose of this column, which is to let you know that some people actually responded to my poll. The poll

included the following questions:

1. When was the last time you had a date?

2. Let's say the same joke is told in two ways: once without curses inserted, and once with curses inserted. For argument's sake, let's say the curses have nothing to do with understanding the joke. Is the joke funnier with curses or without curses?

(Continued on page 75)



Jasmin St. Claire has been known to be a naughty girl. She was pretty conservative during an INSIDE WRESTLING photo shoot earlier this year, but her risqué side still comes out on ecwwrestling.com, where she is often featured.

THE insider

by Brandi Mankiewicz

(The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Brandi Mankiewicz alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.)

HOW'S THIS FOR a surreal moment: Me, The Queen Of All Evil, sitting cross-legged on a living room floor, asking "Do you have an elephant?" to four-year-old Colby Corino as I looked at the primary flash cards in my hand. His answer was, "No, go fish."

The sound of our voices echoed through the open layout of Steve Corino's home. I had just finished doing an exclusive photo set with the new ECW World heavyweight champion when I was asked to play a game of "Go Fish." I tried to get out of it, but the kid was

adamant. Steve briefly told me the rules and then left me to fend for myself.

Just like a rulebreaker, I thought, laughing. He's hung me out to dry—against his kid no less.

Luckily, I soundly defeated Colby and quickly denied his requests for a rematch. Heck, I am not a big fan of children and was not about to lose a silly little game to the little punk, no matter whom he was related to. I couldn't even believe that I was playing the game in the first place. I'm also surprised that I won at all, given my lack of "Go Fish" experience. Colby is quite a "Go Fish" aficionado, just like his dad, who has been playing a grownup version of "Go Fish" his entire wrestling career.

Steve Corino is the poster boy for personal achievement through hard work. Despite his tendencies to bend the rules, he has worked hard to get where he is now: the top of the ECW heap. You may not like him, but he is your ECW World heavyweight champion. Now he proudly displays that ECW World title belt on his fireplace mantle. And he deserves to have it there, regardless of what his critics think.

I remember seeing Steve wrestle in one of his early matches. It was June 1995 in Reading, Pennsylvania. He wrestled The Midnight Rocker in a mid-card match. There wasn't anything too spectacular about the bout, but I could tell that Steve had that solid foundation that any wrestler needs to be even moderately successful. Sure, he made some rookie mistakes during the match, but he did have enough presence

(Continued on page 76)



There is at least one thing more important to Steve Corino than the ECW World title, and that is his son, Colby. Steve honors his son every time he tapes up his forearm and hand by writing Colby's name on it.

ON assignment

By Liz Hunter

"GET RID OF the bums" was the outcry of the Internet know-it-alls and even some know-it-alls at this very magazine. They said that as soon as WCW got rid of those overpaid egomaniacs—men like Hulk Hogan, Lex Luger, Randy Savage, Sid Vicious, Curt Hennig, and Roddy Piper—all of its problems would be over.

What happened?

The old adage turned out to be true: "Be careful of what you wish

for. You just might get it."

In Vince Russo's rush to groom WCW for a hipper, younger audience, he swept the older stars out of the company, assuming the up-and-comers would enjoy the spotlight instead. Those youngsters have taken the spotlight, but that spotlight has dimmed considerably. We've discovered that Hogan, Luger, Piper, and the rest were the batteries for that spotlight, and were primarily responsible for the attention WCW received.

Booker T, Scott Steiner, and Jeff Jarrett are three individuals who have ascended to the top tier with ease. Clearly, their talents were held down far too long.

What about these other guys? It's early-November and I'm looking at some of the current champions in WCW. Mark Jindrak and Sean O'Haire are the World tag team champions. Mike Sanders is the cruiserweight champion. Gen. Rection had just lost the U.S. title to Lance Storm as this issue was going to press.

Don't these wrestlers lack credibility as champions? Jindrak and O'Haire are tough and impressive young men, but should they be regarded as being in the same class as The Road Warriors, The Midnight Express, The Rock 'n' Roll Express, or The Andersons? Not a chance.

Consider the U.S. championship: Ric Flair, Wahoo McDaniel, Greg

Valentine, Magnum T.A., Nikita Koloff, Dusty Rhodes, Bret Hart, and *Gen. Rection*? I commend Gen. Rection for his service to the business and the physical hardships he's endured over the years, but could anyone make the case that he's the best wrestler in the United States? I don't think so.

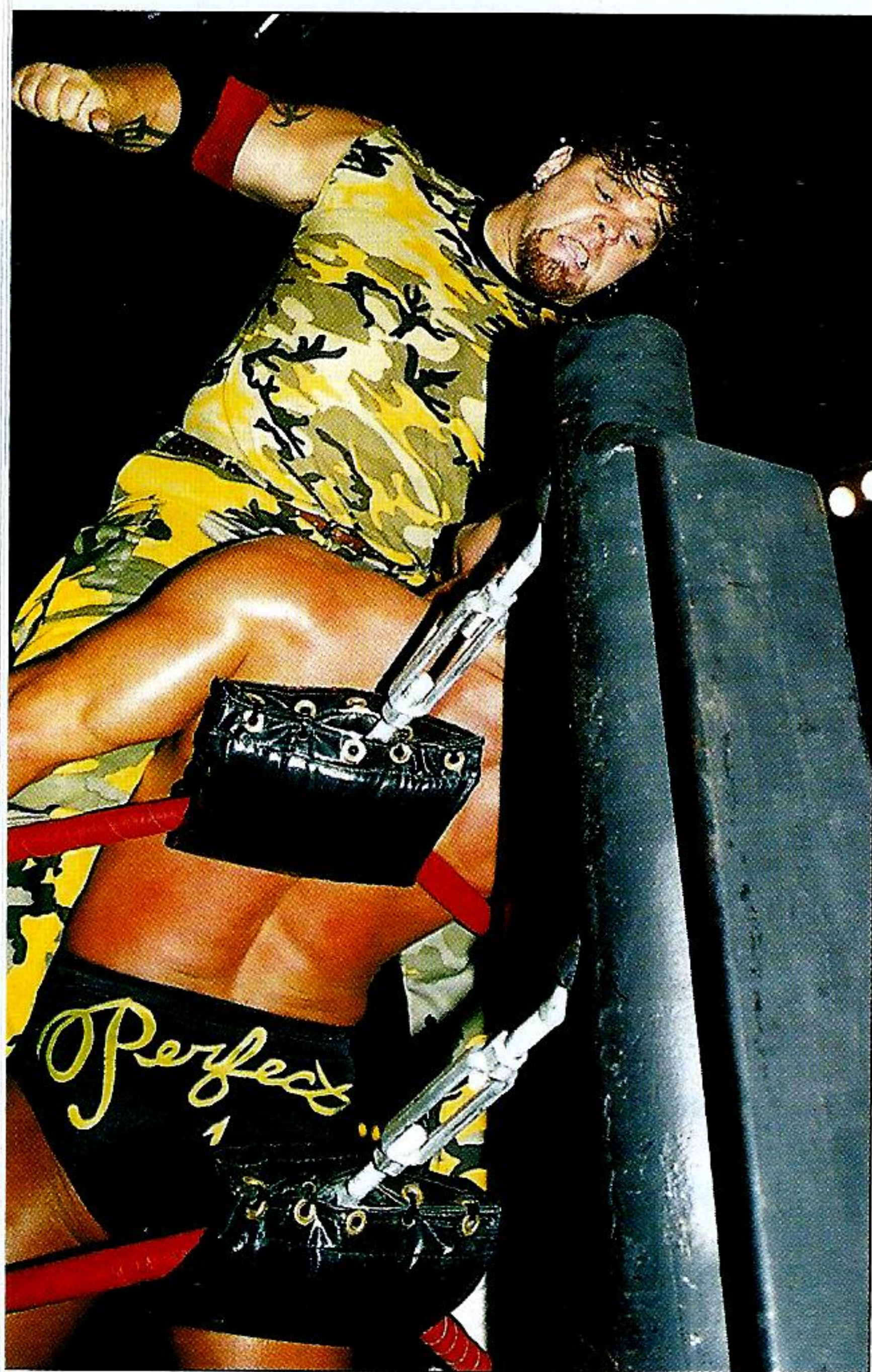
The cruiserweight champion is Mike Sanders, who admits to being only "Above Average." Again, consider the lineage: Shinjiro Otani, Dean Malenko, Rey Misterio Jr., Sean Waltman, Chris Jericho, Lance Storm, and ... and ... Elix Skipper?! Mike Sanders?!

What caused the leap from "Beautiful" Bobby and "Sweet" Stan to Jindrak and O'Haire? Physically, Jindrak and O'Haire could have probably wiped out The Midnight Express. But why don't we consider them as good a team? Well, the Midnights beat The Rock 'n' Roll Express, who beat the Koloffs and so forth, going back to the Andersons and long before that. All those tag teams that held the belts were considered at the top of their game. I don't consider Jindrak and O'Haire legitimate champions, because they aren't truly great. WCW's reasoning seems to be that just because Jindrak and O'Haire are the champions, we should accept them as a great team.

Sorry, it doesn't work that way.

Honestly, couldn't Ric Flair—in his prime—have defeated Gen. Rection in a few minutes? Couldn't Curt Hennig have beaten him rather easily, too? I know Bret Hart could beat him. In fact, I think all three of those men already have, and I don't see how Rection's game has dramatically improved since he was in the Dungeon of Doom. Sure,

(Continued on page 77)



Gen. Rection pounds away on the head of Shawn Stasiak. Though she thought it was nice to see Rection capture WCW's U.S. title this fall, Liz Hunter doesn't believe Rection made for a quality U.S. champ.

CAPSULE profile

300

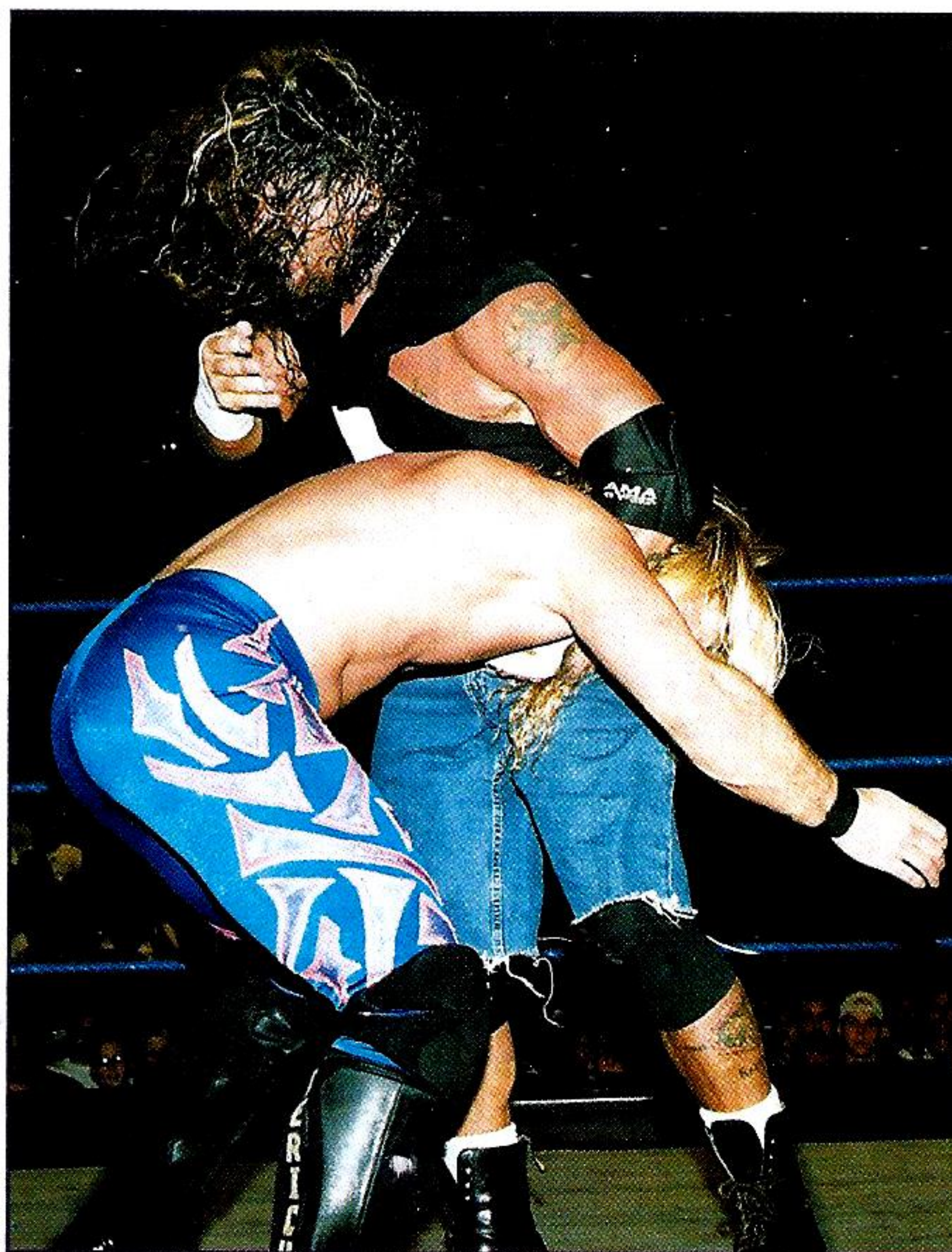
RAVEN

“WHAT ABOUT RAVEN?” Let's find out ... In 1988, he debuted in the NWA Pacific Northwest as Scotty the Body ... Captured the first of his three Pacific Northwest heavyweight titles by defeating Carl Styles on September 2, 1989 ... Was later stripped of the title due to a foul-filled match with Curtis Thompson on March 30, 1990 (*“Just a preview of how sordid I'd become”*) ... Changed his name to Scotty Flamingo upon signing with WCW ... A flamboyant elitist, Flamingo defeated Brian Pillman to win WCW's light heavyweight title on June 20, 1992 ... He would hold the belt for less than a month before losing it to Brad Armstrong (*“Brad, shmad—he was terrible”*) ... Left WCW and had a brief stint in the USWA, where he won the tag title with Brian Christopher (Grandmaster Sexay) on March 22, 1993 ... Later signed with the WWF, where he debuted as manager extraordinaire Johnny Polo (*“Just another side of me”*) ... Led The Quebecers to the WWF World tag team title via their stunning upset of Rick and Scott Steiner on September 13, 1993 ... With aspirations of getting back into the ring as a competitor on a more regular basis, he left the WWF for ECW and debuted as Raven (*“And the gates of Hell slowly creaked opened”*) ... Captured his first ECW heavyweight title by defeating The Sandman at the ECW Arena on January 27, 1996 ...

It was thought the match might end the bitter rivalry between the two, but the hostilities only escalated over the next two years ... At one point, Raven even cajoled Sandman's wife, Lori Fullington, and his son, Tyler, to leave The Sandman

with Raven ... On June 7, 1997, Dreamer beat Raven in a loser-leaves-ECW match ... Soon afterward, he began making ringside appearances at WCW shows, but refused to sign a contract until WCW met the condition that all his

matches be contested under “Raven's” rules (meaning no disqualifications) ... WCW agreed, and after forming The Flock, a lawless Raven became one of the most dangerous men in the federation (*“J.J. Dillon was such a mark to give in to my demands”*) ... Despite winning one U.S. title and one World tag team title (with Perry Saturn), when WCW President Eric Bischoff offered an outright release to any unhappy WCW wrestler who wanted one in the summer of 1999, Raven left ... Returned to ECW and won the ECW World tag team title his first night back by helping Dreamer defeat the WWF-bound Dudley Boyz ... Although they were the tag team champs, Raven and Dreamer continued to feud ... They eventually lost the belts to Justin Credible and Lance Storm ... Repaired his relationship with Dreamer before leaving for



Raven delivers an evenflow DDT to Chris Jericho. Although the cause of all of Raven's inner turmoil remains a mystery, he certainly puts his rage to good use. The WWF World title is not out of his reach.

and join his camp ... The highlight of his ECW career had to be his long, grueling, bloody feud with childhood friend Tommy Dreamer, whom Raven loved to torment (*“He stole Beulah from me!”*) ... Indeed, Beulah McGillicutty *did* ditch Raven for Dreamer despite the fact that Dreamer piledrived her numerous times for interfering in his matches

the WWF in the summer of 2000 (*“We had such wild times”*) ... Emerged from the crowd during the WWF's Unforgiven pay-per-view in Philadelphia and DDT'd Jerry Lawler to help former ECW pal Tazz defeat “The King” ... Since then, Raven and Tazz have become one of the federation's strongest teams (*“Only I know what my future holds”*). □



RAVEN

WHATEVER happened to

By Scott Teal

... BOBBY JAGGERS

Walking away from wrestling is never easy for men who have made it their careers for years or even decades. Some stay around too long, while others walk away but are unsure of what to do once they have retired from the business.

Bobby Jagers knew exactly when it was time to leave and has been very successful since he hung up his boots. Believe it or not, Jagers now works as an engineering technician.

As a young soldier returning from a stint in Vietnam to his home to Vancouver, Washington, Bobby began training to be a pro wrestler. He found his teachers, Lonnie Mayne and Sabu Singh, to be hard taskmasters.

"Actually, Lonnie just beat the hell out of me," Jagers joked. "Basically, I was just his punching bag for

five or six months. They got me in shape. Then he put me in the ring with Sabu and they started drop-kickin' me and slammin' me."

Bobby continued his education in Phoenix under the tutelage of Chris Colt and Ron Dupree and, as Bobby Dupree, had his first match against Al Madril.

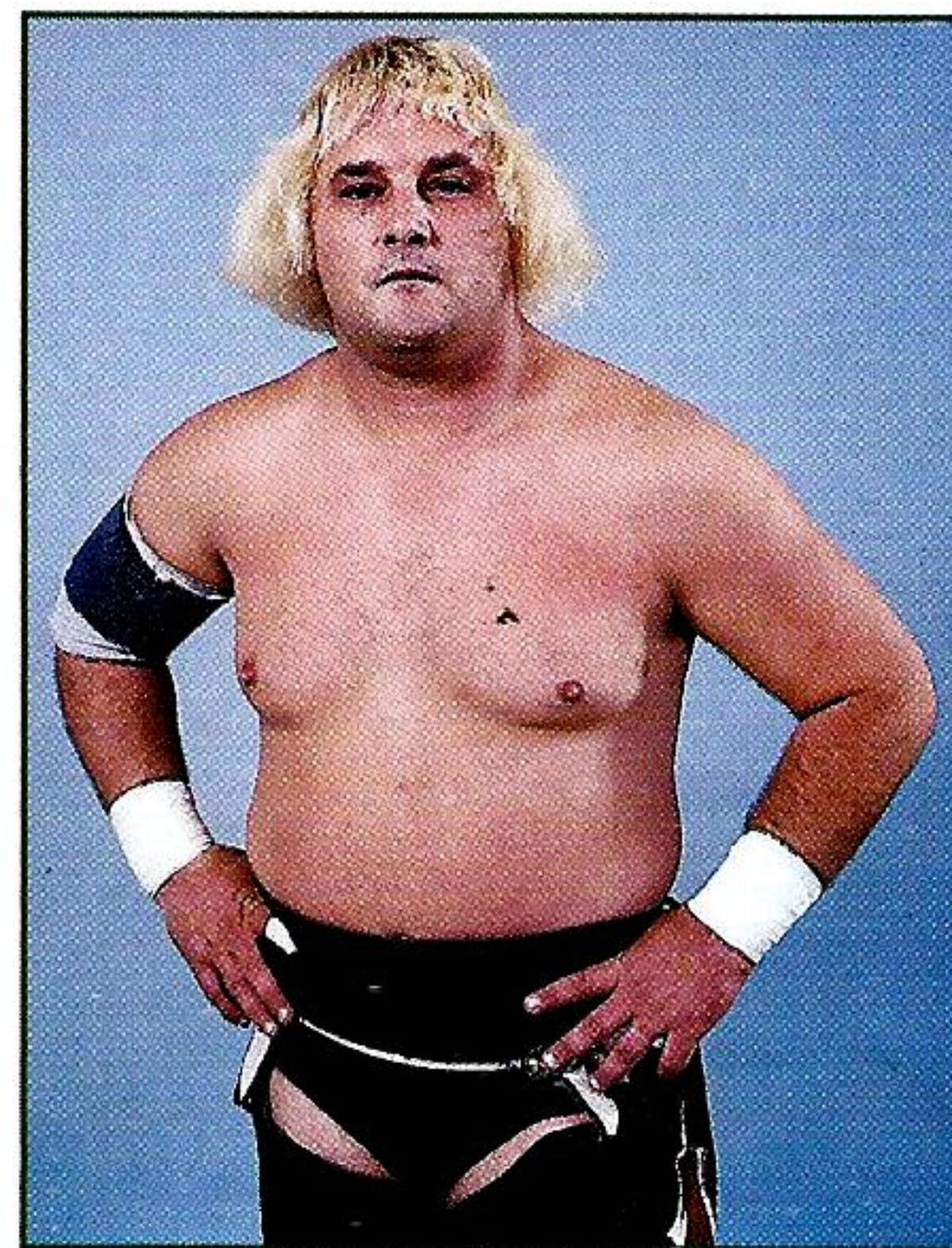
"Madril was just about as green as I was at the time," Bobby recalled. "I thought I was a big stud, then I blew up in the first five seconds."

Bobby moved on to Seattle to wrestle for promoter Dean Silverstone. From there, he went to Tennessee, where he changed his name to Bobby Mayne and formed a team with Charlie Fulton; Steve Clements served as their manager.

Bobby, Charlie, and Steve were involved in a match that some older fans in Louisville still talk about.

"Jerry Jarrett had me in an abdominal stretch and Charlie was on the floor," Bobby explained. "Clements came out of the crowd dressed as an old woman. He reached into his handbag, pulled out a slapjack, and hit Jarrett. Jarrett went down and I covered him. When Clements got out of the ring, the damn wig came off. You could hear a pin drop. That's when you know you [ticked] 'em off ... I mean, the fans were mad! They sliced the tires, then broke the mirrors and windows on my brand new Satellite Sebring."

Bobby left for Kansas City a few weeks later and changed his name to Bobby Jagers, a name that stuck for the remainder of his career. He headlined cards in almost all the major



territories, including Charlotte, Amarillo, San Antonio, and Florida.

Life on the road finally took its toll, however.

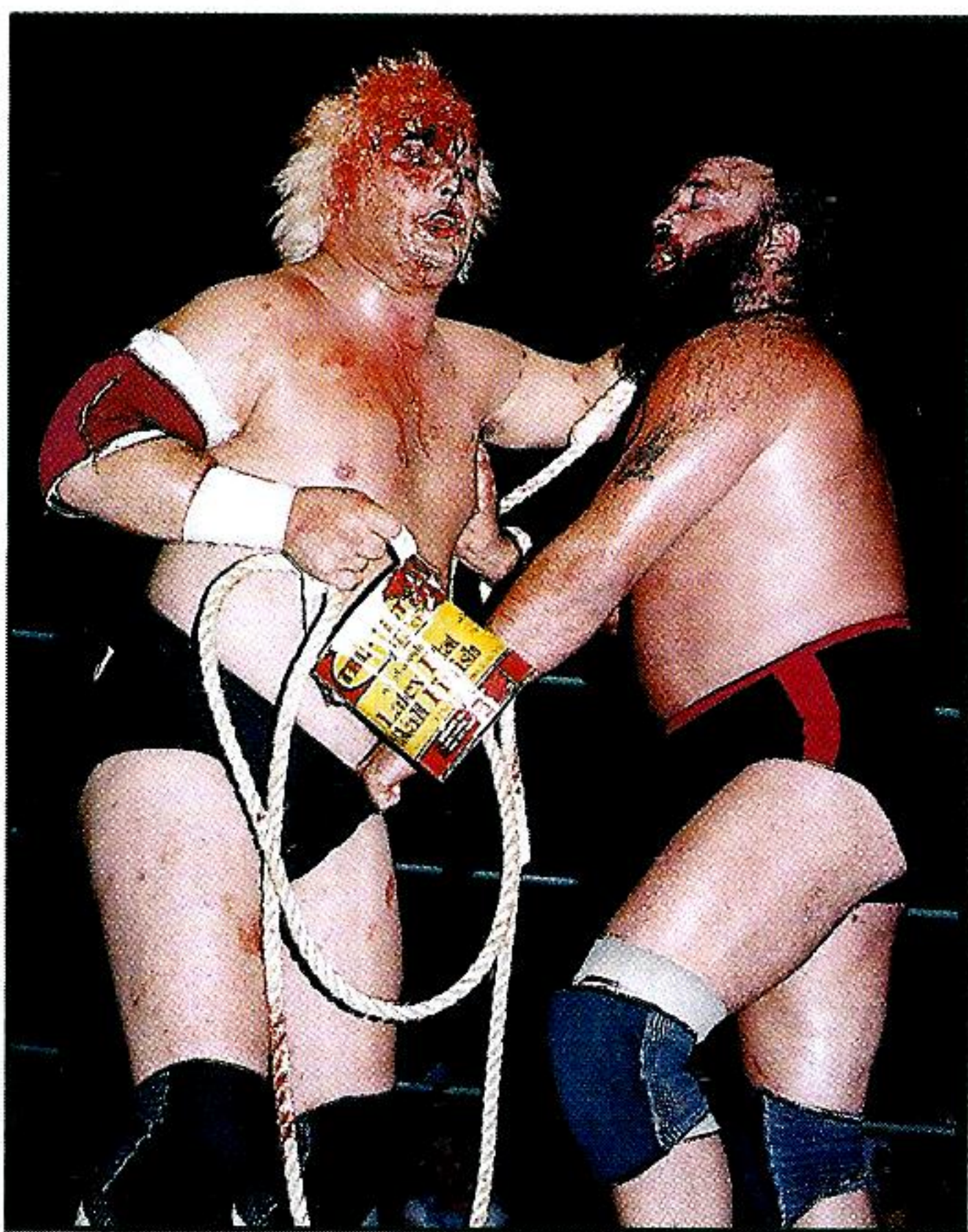
"I wanted to go home," he said. "My kids were growing up, and I didn't even know them. My youngest daughter called me Bobby Jagers. That's nuts! My last match was with Dustin Rhodes. 'Diamond' Dallas Page took me down to his bar and we had a big retirement party. Everybody got drunk and had a good time ... and that was it!"

Soon thereafter, he went back to school on the G.I. Bill and graduated with a degree in drafting and civil engineering.

"I work for the state of Kansas now," he said. "I build new highways for the state. I oversee the contracts and construction of the roads. I miss the wrestling business, but I love my job and make good money."

"For so many years, I missed my hunting and fishing. Now I get to do it whenever I want."

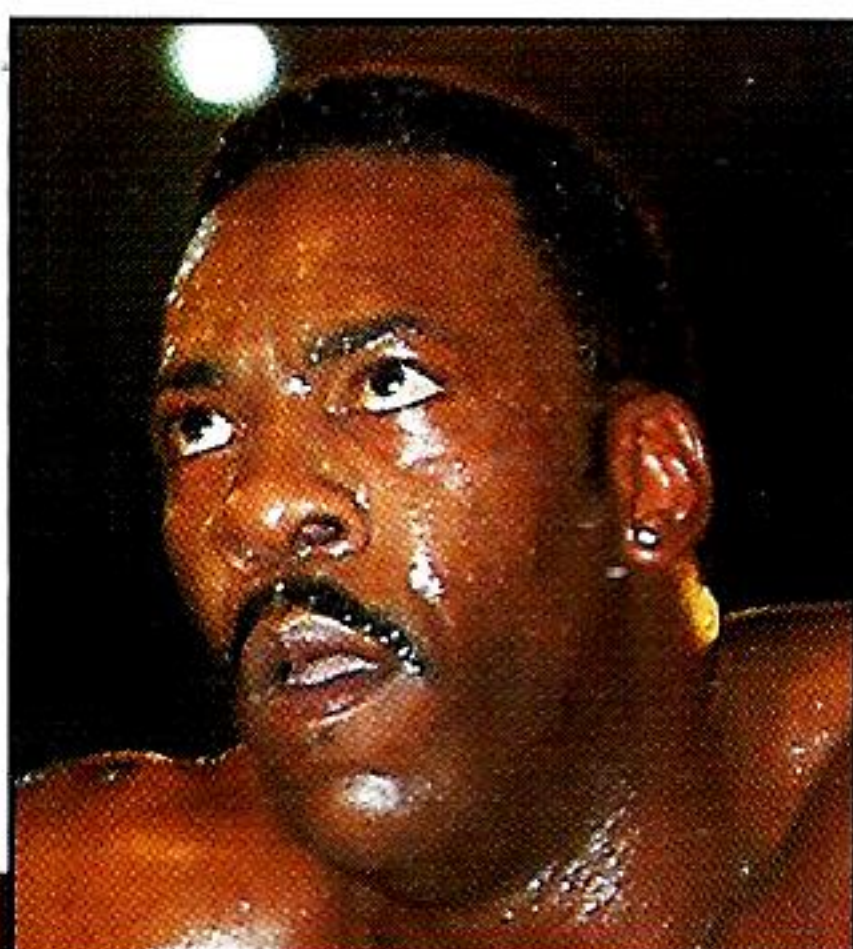
(Scott Teal publishes the newsletter "Whatever Happened To ...?" He can be reached at: P.O. Box 2781, Hendersonville, TN 37077-2781. Web site: www.1wrestlinglegends.com) □



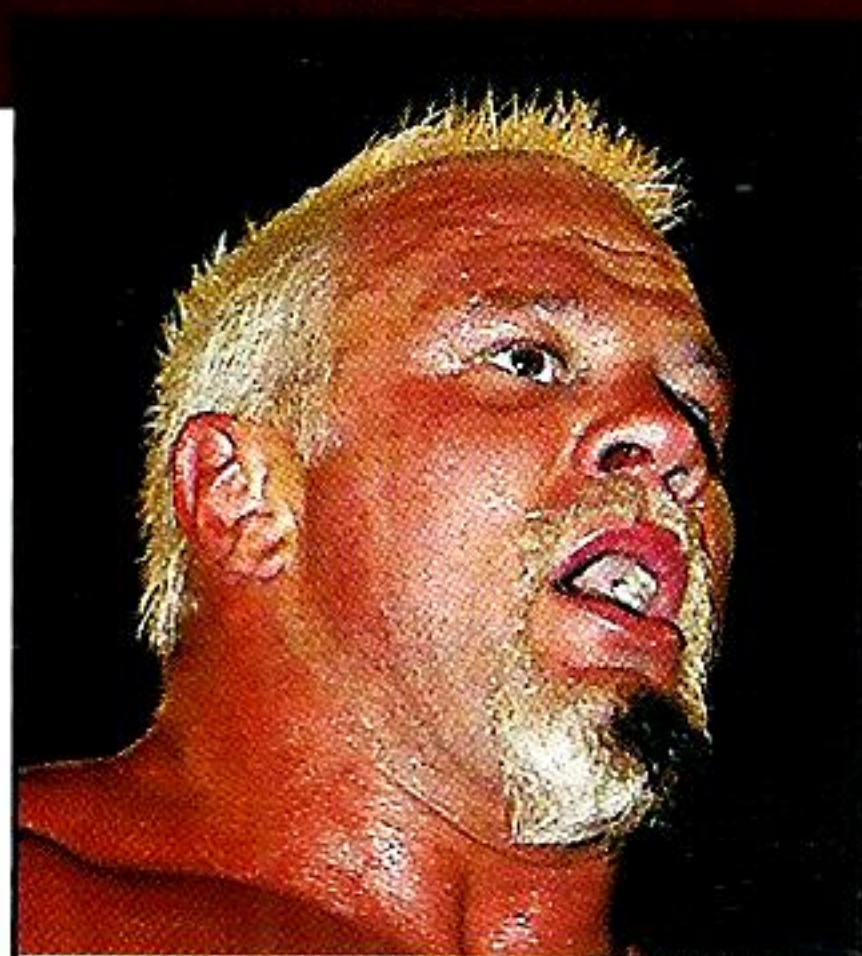
One would think Killer Brooks got the better of this paint-can-on-a-rope match with Bobby Jagers. In fact, Jagers won this 1984 encounter.

NEWS FROM THE wrestling caps

**LAS VEGAS, NV
BY FRANK MILLER**



**BOOKER T
VS.
SCOTT STEINER**



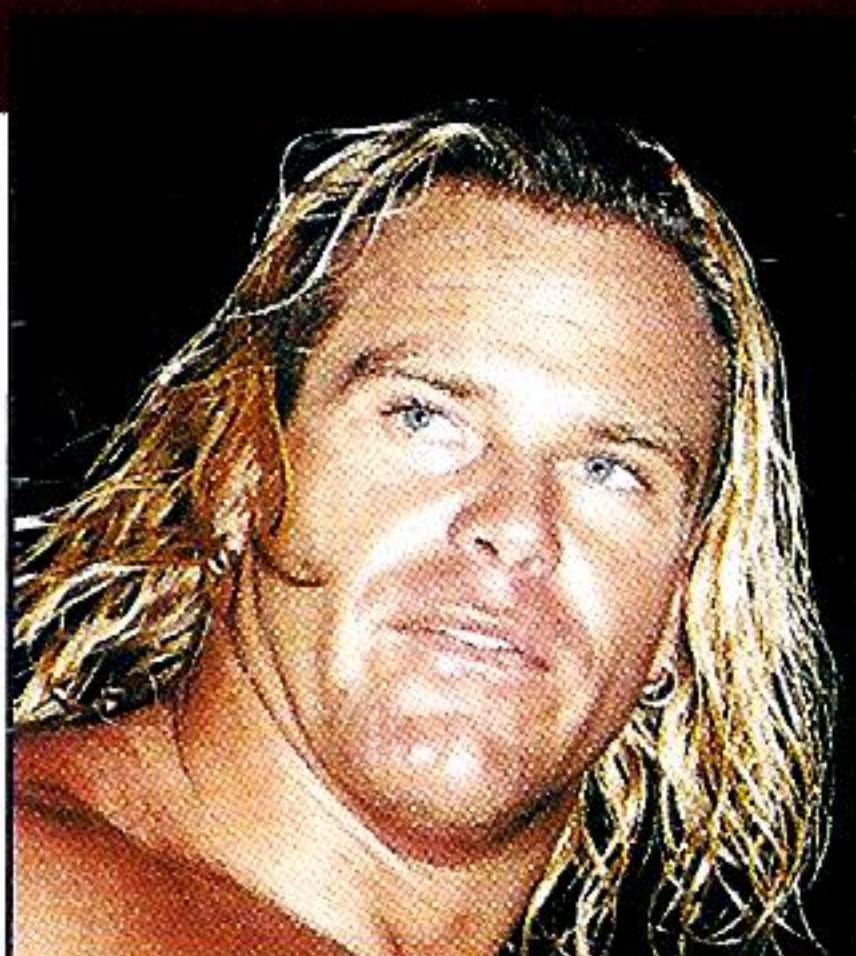
Scott Steiner's rage got him disqualified in this Halloween Havoc bout against WCW World champ Booker T. Steiner dominated the match with Midajah's help, neutralizing much of Booker's offense. In the end, as Booker went for his Harlem sidekick, Steiner whacked him with a pipe. He then beat up two referees, leading to the DQ.

OTHER BOUTS: WCW World tag champs Mark Jindrak & Sean O'Haire won a three-way bout against Rey Mysterio Jr. & Kidman and Boogie Knights ... WCW hardcore champ Reno pinned Sgt. A-Wall ... Lt. Loco & Cpl. Cajun beat Sean Stasiak & Chuck Palumbo ... Konnan & Tygress beat Shane Douglas & Torrie Wilson ... Buff Bagwell beat David Flair in a first-blood match ... Mike Sanders beat Ernest Miller in a kickboxing match ... Mike Awesome beat Vampiro ... Gen. Rection beat Lance Storm to win the WCW U.S. title ... Jeff Jarrett beat Sting ... Bill Goldberg beat Kronik in a handicap match.

**BUFFALO, NY
BY STEVE DREW**



**EDDIE GUERRERO
VS.
BILLY GUNN**



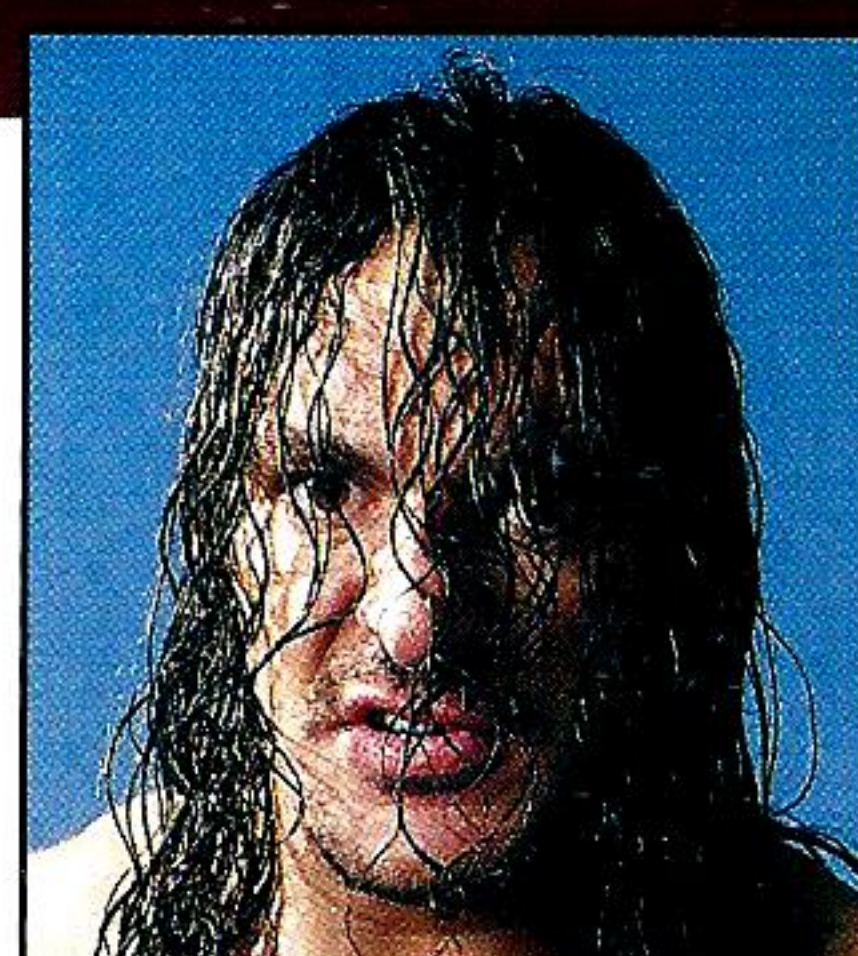
Gunn has been offering Chyna all kinds of support in her feud with WWF Intercontinental champ Eddie Guerrero since returning from a shoulder injury and was happy to take this match. Gunn gained the advantage early on, but soon got caught in an armbar. Eddie milked the hold by using the ropes for leverage and taunting the crowd. Gunn came back strong, though, but as he attempted a famouser, Eddie sent him to the mat with a low blow and got disqualified for his efforts.

OTHER BOUTS: Bull Buchanan & The Goodfather beat Too Cool ... WWF European champ William Regal defeated Crash Holly ... X-Pac beat WWF light heavyweight champ Dean Malenko in a non-title match ... Test, Albert, & Jacqueline defeated The Hardy Boyz & Lita ... Al Snow beat Perry Saturn ... The Dudley Boyz defeated Edge & Christian in a tables match ... Kane beat Road Dogg ... The Rock, Triple-H, & Steve Austin beat Kurt Angle, Rikishi, & Chris Benoit.

**TAMPA, FL
BY STACI JAMES**



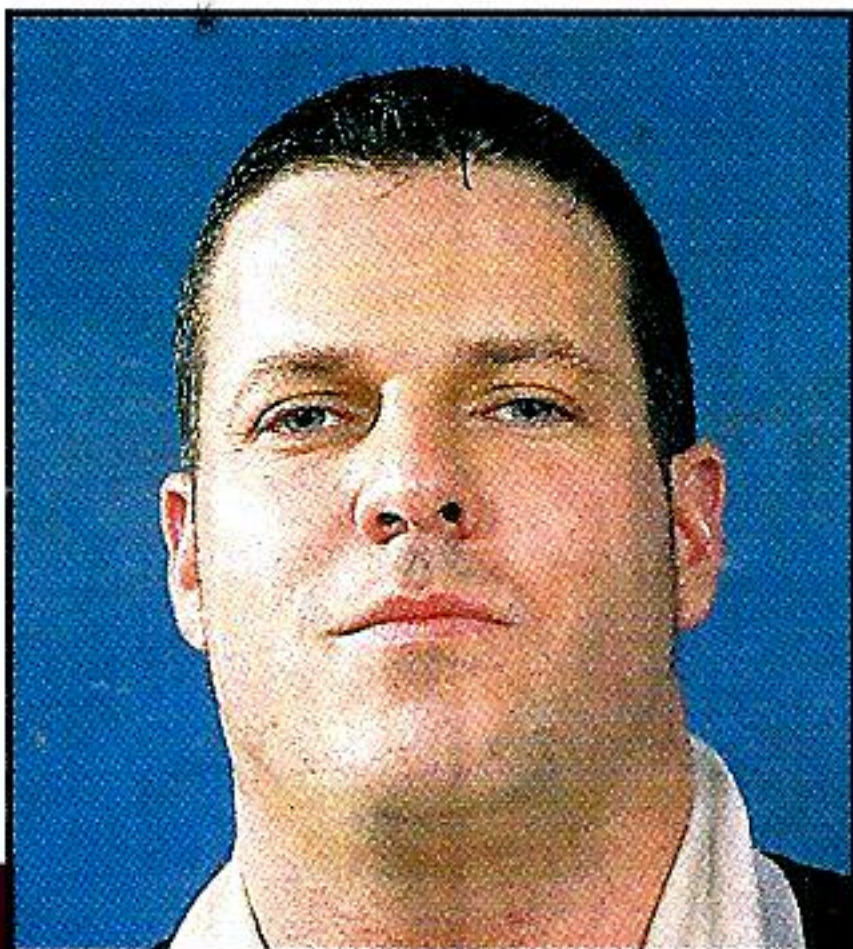
**MIKE RAPADA
VS.
SABU**



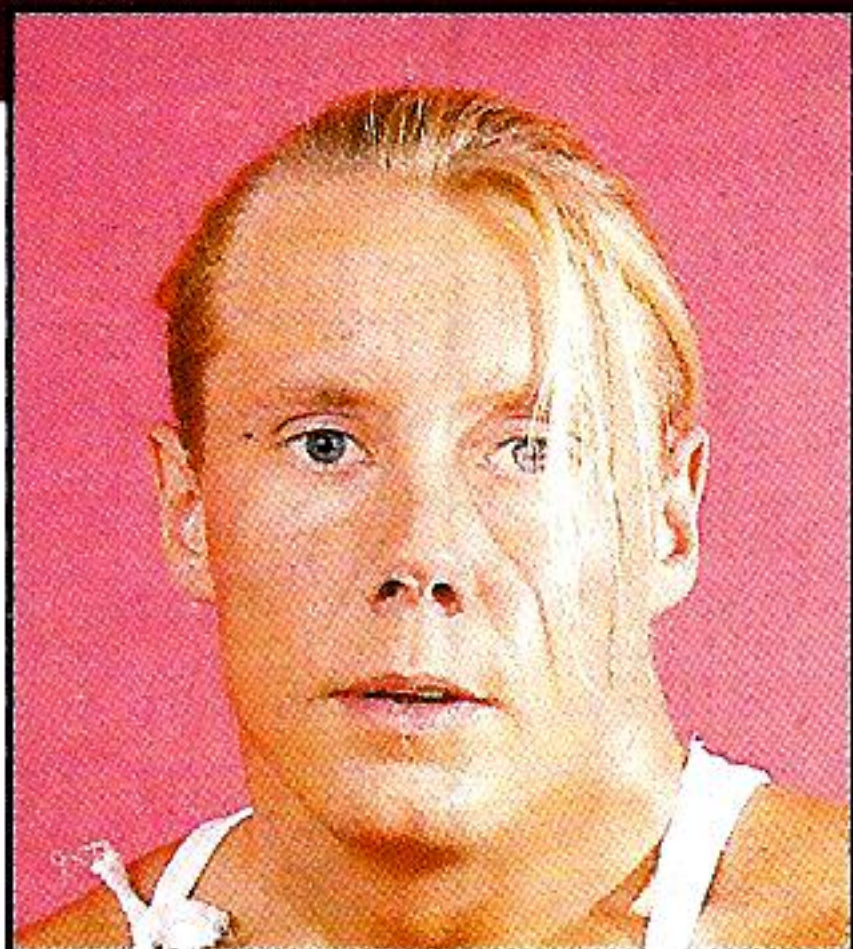
NWA champion "Colorado Kid" Mike Rapada had his hands full against his toughest challenger to date, Sabu. Sabu had previously attacked Rapada, so Rapada was also looking for revenge. From the start of the bout, both men ignored the referee and the rules and tore into each other. The referee was inadvertently struck by both men while trying to separate them and thus disqualified both of them. After the match, an angry Sabu put Rapada through a table before getting whisked away from the ring.

OTHER BOUTS: Sweeter Brown Sugar won a battle royal ... Lex Lovett won a three-way bout against NWA Florida junior heavyweight champion Pepe Prado and Buck Q by disqualification ... Cyborg defeated Frankie Rose ... B. Brian Blair beat Al Greene in a lumberjack match ... NWA Florida champion Adam Windsor pinned Brent Cameron Dail ... Chris Nelson & Vito DeNucci wrestled Barry Windham & Fidel Sierra to a no-contest.

**LAUREL, DE
BY JEFF AMDUR**



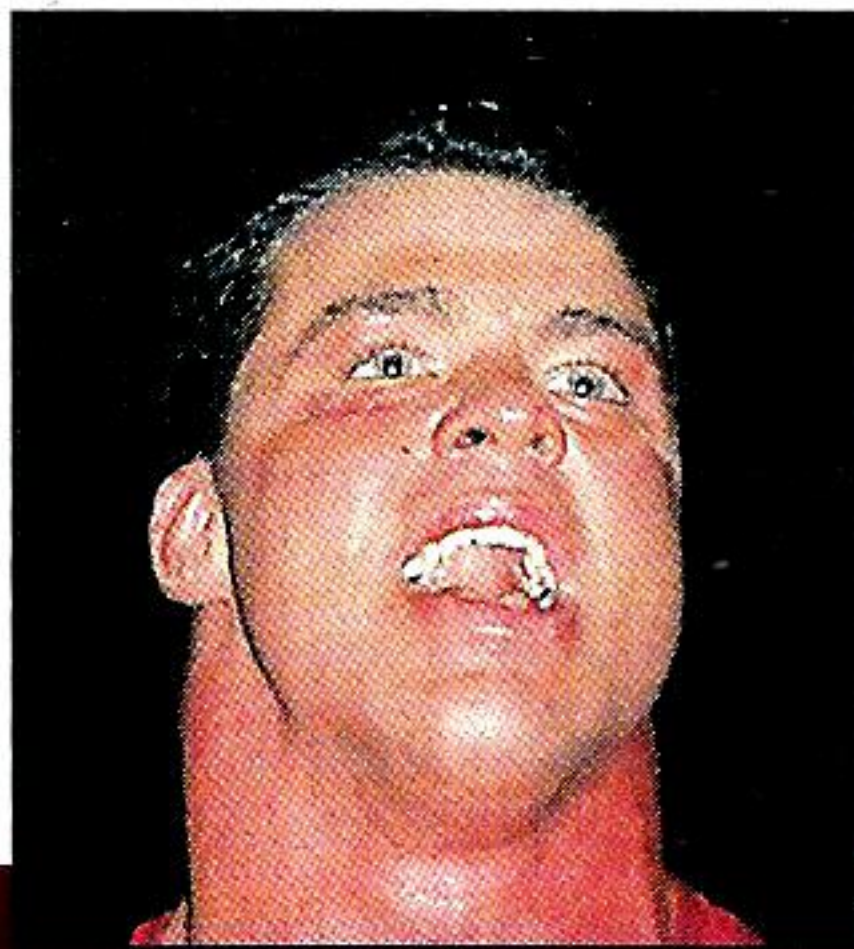
**SIMON DIAMOND
VS.
CHEETAH MASTER**



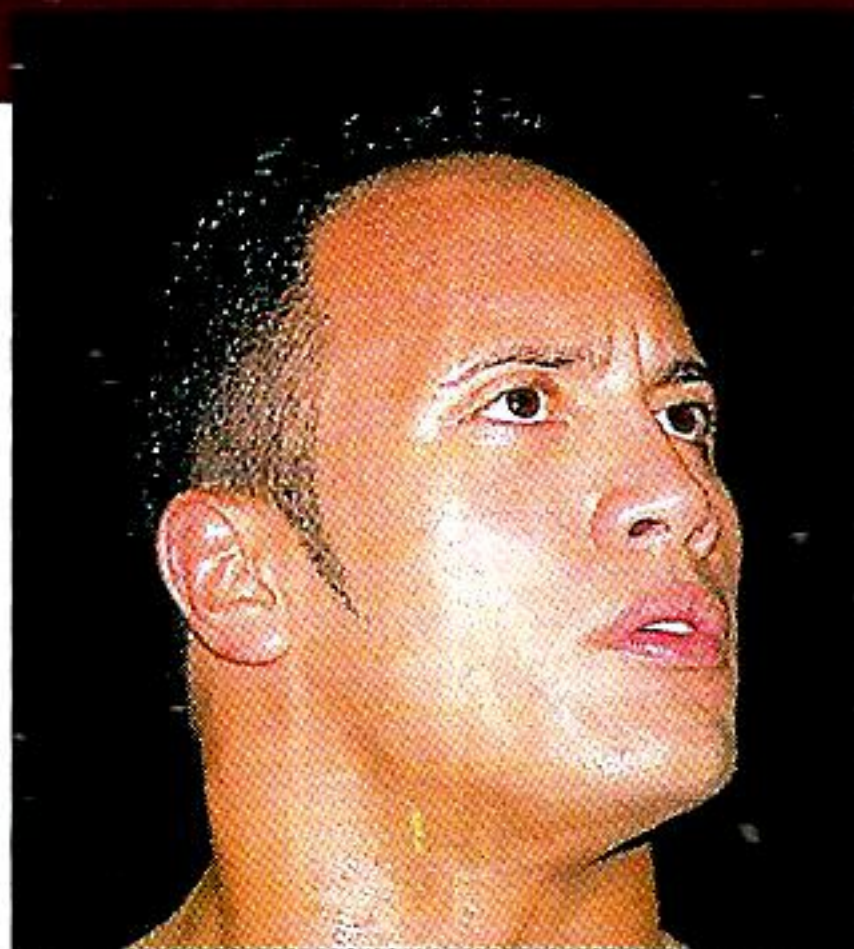
Simon Diamond reignited his rivalry with Cheetah Master in the ECWA and oneupped him with some help from Dawn Marie. Neither Cheetah nor Simon could gain an advantage, but that changed when Dawn grabbed Cheetah's leg. Later, Cheetah executed his top-rope dive, but Simon blocked it with his knees. ECWA champ J.J. Johnston tried to interfere on Cheetah's behalf, but he hit Cheetah with his title belt by mistake, giving Diamond a chance to get the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Christopher Daniels beat Eddie Valentine ... Vince Goodnite & Johnny Maxx beat Mozart Fontaine & Mr. Ooh La La ... Benny Stolfus beat The Japanese Pool Boy & The Persian Prince in a handicap match ... Reckless Youth pinned Low-Ki ... ECWA Mid-Atlantic champ Glen Osbourne wrestled Patch to a double-disqualification ... J.J. Johnston beat ECWA champ Inferno to win the title ... Jay & Mark Briscoe beat ECWA tag champs The Haas Brothers in a non-title match.

**ALBANY, NY
BY MICHELLE REGAN**



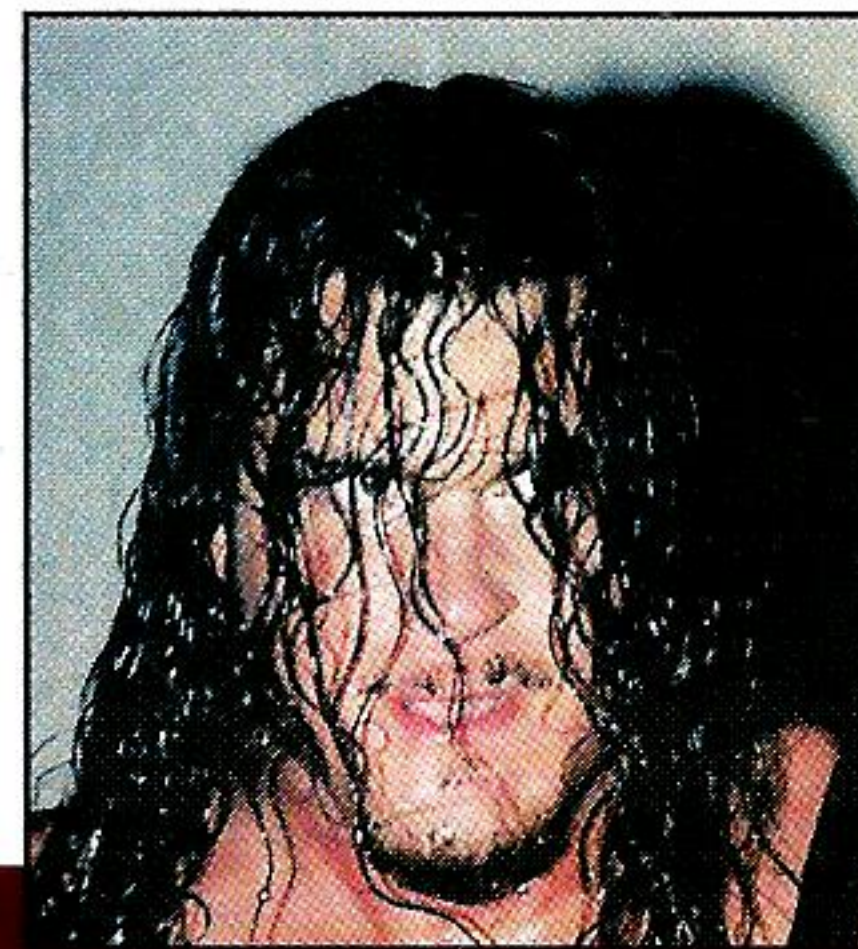
**KURT ANGLE
VS.
THE ROCK**



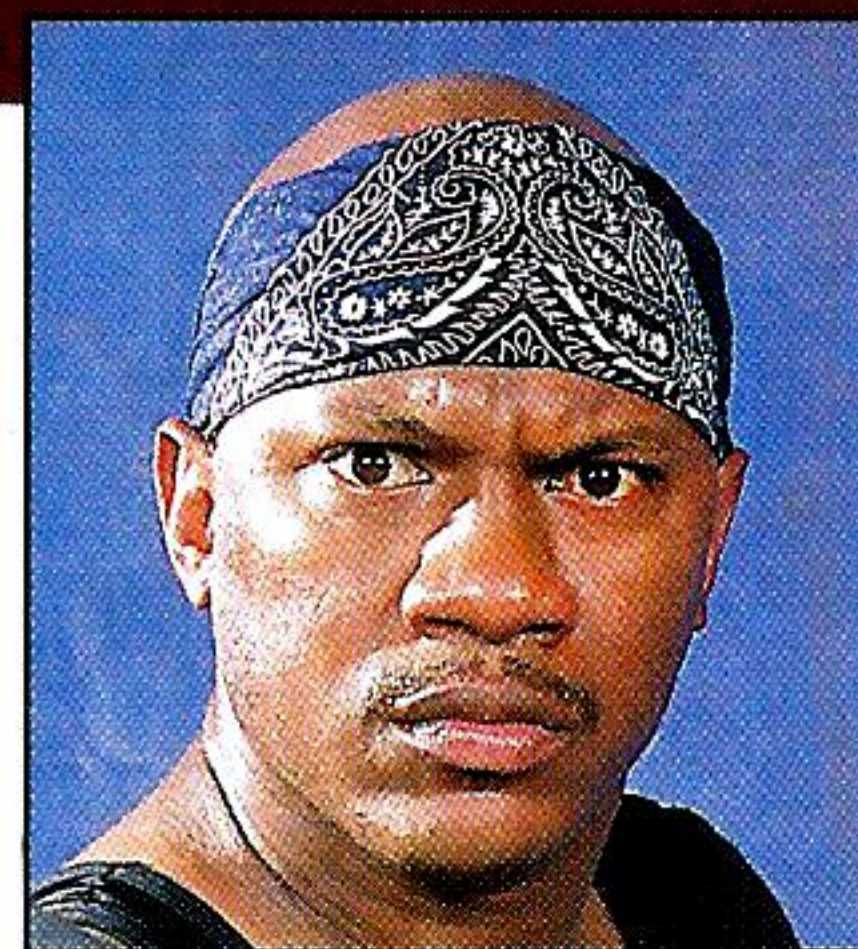
It's true—Kurt Angle beat The Rock to win the WWF World title at No Mercy. The two brawled for the first few minutes of the bout, with Stephanie McMahon also getting into the mix. At the seven-minute mark, The Rock made Angle tap out to a sharpshooter, but the ref was distracted by Steph, so it never counted. Later, Rikishi came to ringside to help The Rock, but ended up nailing Rock with a sitdown splash and a kick. Angle used his Olympic slam on Rikishi and also The Rock, then covered Rock for the win.

OTHER BOUTS: Buh Buh Ray & D-Von Dudley won the tag team tables invitational match ... Chris Jericho defeated X-Pac in a cage match ... Val Venis & Steven Richards beat Billy Gunn & Chyna ... Rikishi wrestled Steve Austin to a no-contest ... WWF European champ William Regal beat Midian ... The Hardy Boyz (as Los Conquistadors) beat WWF World tag champs The Hardy Boyz to win the title ... Triple-H pinned Chris Benoit.

**CHICAGO, IL
BY GREG BACHMAN**



**RHINO
VS.
NEW JACK**



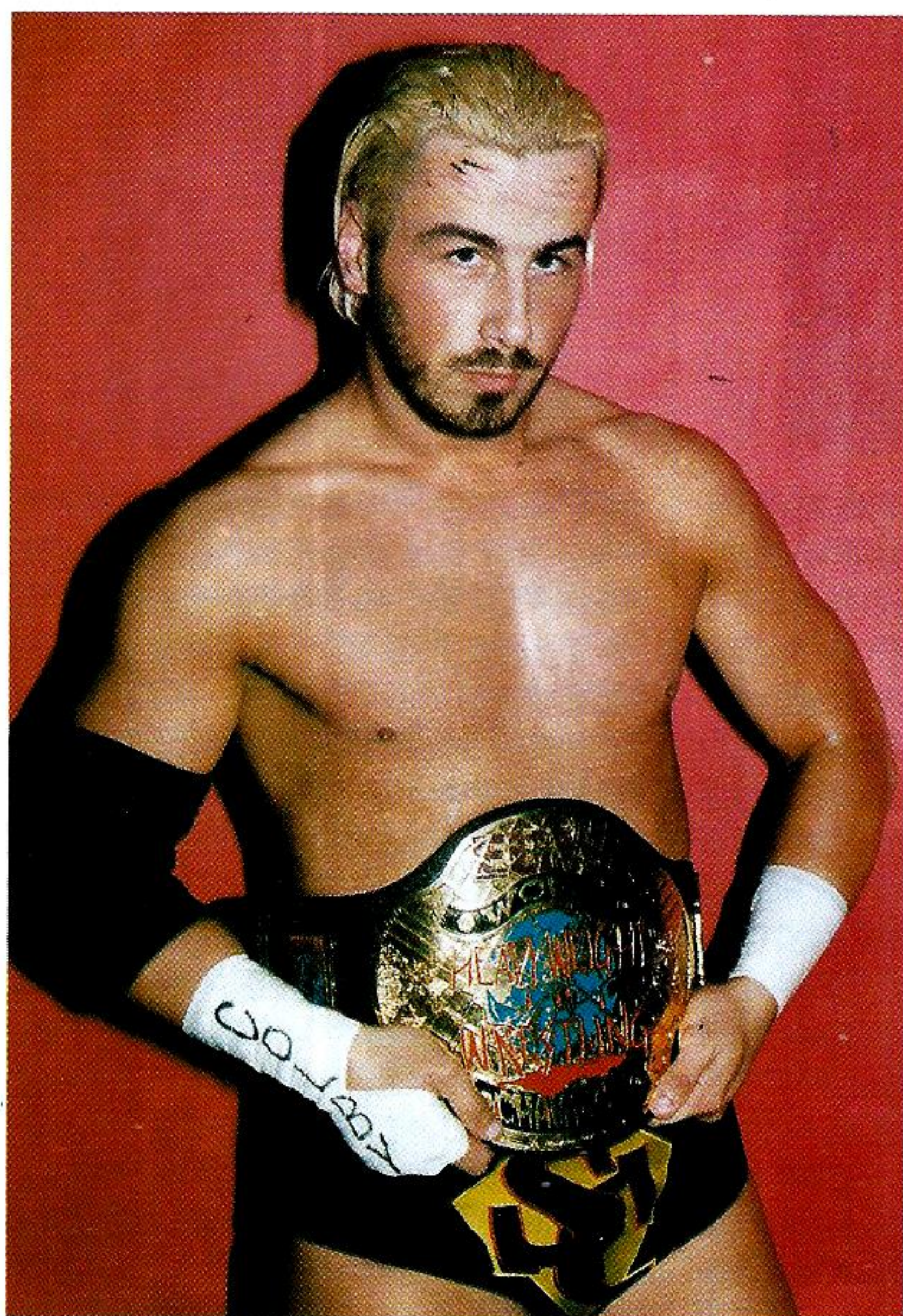
ECW TV champ Rhino proved himself at November to Remember by meeting New Jack head-on and walking away with a win. New Jack came after Rhino with his usual garbage can full of weapons. New Jack knocked out the original ref with his garbage can, so crooked ref Danny Daniels came to replace him. Later, New Jack whacked Rhino with a guitar, but Rhino then gored New Jack through a table and got the win.

OTHER BOUTS: Simon Diamond & Swinger beat Christian York & Joey Matthews ... Kid Kash pinned C.W. Anderson ... Danny Doring, Roadkill, & Spike Dudley beat E.Z. Money, Julio Dinero, & Chris Hamrick ... Nova beat Chris Chetti in a loser-leaves-ECW match ... Mahoney & Chilly Willy beat Angel & DeVito ... ECW World tag team champs Little Guido Maritato & Tony Mamaluke beat Yoshihiro Tajiri & Super Crazy ... Steve Corino defeated ECW World champion Jerry Lynn, Justin Credible, and The Sandman in a "Double Jeopardy" match to win the title.

PLAIN speaking

With Matt Brock

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor



STEVE CORINO

There are a lot of things people can say about ECW (just ask Dave Rosenbaum), but the one thing you can't accuse the federation of is not giving its paying fans their money's worth. I'll be the first to

complain that the syndicated TV show has too many commercials, but the federation makes up for that with its live product. Steve Corino won a "Double Jeopardy" match at November to Remember to win the ECW World title, which means Jerry Lynn, who was the most respectable ECW World champion in a long time, is out—at least for the time being. ¶ Seemed like everybody in ECW got involved in this match: Corino, Lynn, Justin Credible, and The Sandman were the four participants, but Dawn Marie, Jack Victory, and Francine all tried to add their two cents to the outcome. Usual ECW stuff in this match. Lots

of ladders, chairs, and tables. The affair came down to Credible and Corino, and it looked like the night might have been over for Corino when Dawn Marie blasted him with a low blow after Corino delivered the old-school expulsion to Credible. But after taking three Credible cane shots to his already bloody head, Corino scored with a superkick and gained the pinfall. ¶ The thing you learn fast in this game is that the guys who bleed the most and hurt the most usually win the most. They're the ones willing to play the price. Corino may not be the world's best wrestler, but he is more than willing to pay up.

Several things got my attention while sitting in the good seats watching *Nitro* here a few months ago. The first (not counting the fact that not many bad seats were filled) was the return of "Diamond" Dallas Page. Seemed like it was just about six months ago that WCW was ushering in a new era of with its young stars, but there was DDP coming back to the ring and telling everybody that Ric Flair—another veteran face—begged him to come back. ¶ Talked to Dave Lenker about this the other day and I have to agree with him: The problem with WCW is that they're always trying something new, and they never give anything a chance to play out. Back in 1956, I can remember the first time Vince McMahon Sr. promoted a card at the old Madison Square Garden. Antonino Rocca wrestled Dick the Bruiser in the main event and "only" 10,400 showed up. A bunch of scribes, yours truly included, circled the wagons after the match and asked Senior, "You gonna give it another shot here?" Vince Sr. looked at us like we were the stupidest people on earth, but in a patient voice, he said, "Boys, Rome wasn't built in a day. Nothing that's worthwhile happens overnight. I'm not going to guarantee you that Madison Square Garden is going to become the mecca of professional wrestling, but we're going to be back here every month, and we're going to pack 'em in." ¶ Well, wouldn't you know it, less than three months later, the Garden was packed with 19,300 for Rocca and Verne Gagne vs. Hans Schmidt and Karl Von Hess, and the place has been the mecca of pro wrestling ever since. ¶ Anyway, said there were several things that caught my attention. The first was DDP. The second was Flair taking over as CEO of WCW. Let's give that some time to settle in. The third was Bam Bam Bigelow returning and getting destroyed by Bill Goldberg. Bigelow has one of those careers that wasn't meant to be. Sad but true.

VILLA PARK, IL

CHICAGO, IL

Weird place to be on November 7, 2000. For those of you who have already forgotten, November 7 was Election Day this year, and Texas is the home of George W. Bush, who reminds me of Vince McMahon Sr. in ways too complicated to consider in this column. Kept wondering what would have happened if all of a sudden Lillian Garcia, the WWF's dame ring announcer, got on the microphone and said, "Ladies and gentlemen, the presidential election is too close to call, so we're going to have George W. Bush vs. Al Gore in a cage match to decide who becomes President of the United States." The problem with that definitely would have been outside interference, although I'm not sure which vice presidential candidate would have been more likely to interfere, Dick Cheney or Joseph Lieberman. The way wrestling works these days, though, both of them would have stayed out of it, and the bout would have turned into a mud match between the wives. Wouldn't want to see that. The most interesting match figured to be Triple-H and Rikishi against Austin and The Rock, but it turned out to be Bull Buchanan and The Goodfather against the Dudleys for the WWF World tag team title. Interesting to watch and hear the crowd's reaction to the Dudleys. Just a few years ago, they were a gimmick tag team in ECW, two guys who seemed to be around just because they know how to rile people up, but now they're as popular as anyone around. Tonight, they couldn't beat Buchanan and The Goodfather for the World tag team title, but it's easy to see why they're so popular. Buh Buh and D-Von are like a tag team version of Mick Foley. They're willing to take as much punishment as they dish out, as long as it means they end up in the win column. A lot of people, most of them outside of wrestling, are complaining that the sport is getting too violent, but that's what wrestling is all about. Fans don't pay good money to watch two guys in suits shake hands.

DALLAS, TX



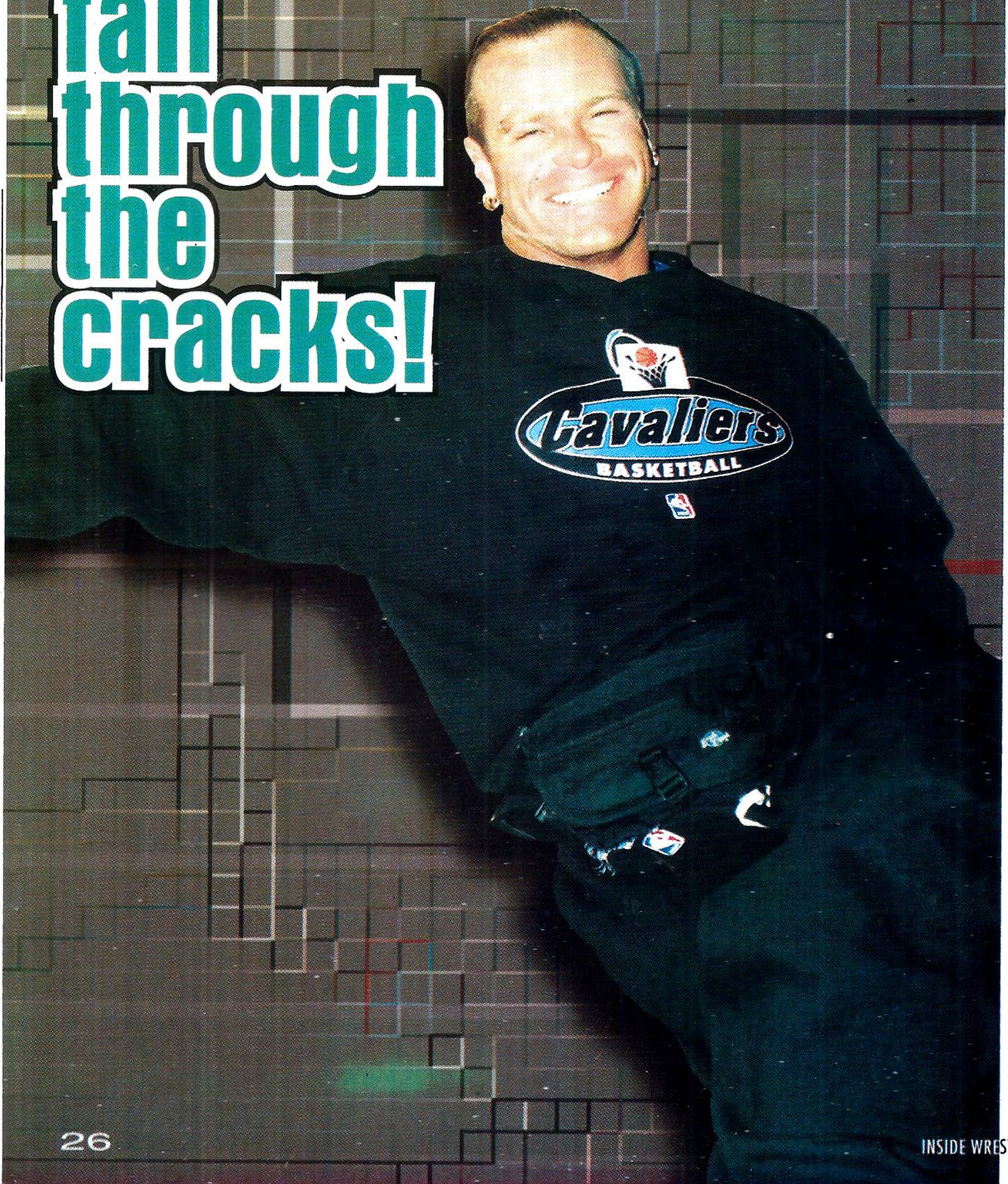
MICK FOLEY

First sign of spring, and it's not even winter yet: The WWF held a press conference for WrestleMania XVII here today, and every big name in the federation was in attendance: The Rock, Steve Austin, Triple-H, Chyna, The Undertaker, Mick Foley, Kurt Angle ... that should show you how united the WWF is. WrestleMania's going to be held at the Astrodome, and you can probably bet right now that all kinds of ticket records will be broken. The date's April 1,

HOUSTON, TX

2001, and judging by the number of corporate sponsors McMahon's lined up, there's going to be big money made here even if only 5,000 people show up (an unlikely event, of course). Talked to Mick Foley after the press conference, and he was saying how the WWF seems to be doing everything right these days, and that's why everybody in the federation's always eager to get on board and help out. "Nobody wants to be left behind," Foley said. "For a lot of us, even me, and I'm not wrestling anymore, this is the time of our lives." □

**Butt seriously, Billy...
don't let this
opportunity
fall
through
the
cracks!**



The WWF has given Billy Gunn every opportunity to become a superstar on his own, but he hasn't done it yet. Since returning from a serious shoulder injury, Gunn's been given another chance. This one could be his last

Billy Gunn jumped right into the Intercontinental title picture upon returning to WWF competition this fall. It looks like he is more determined than he has ever been to grab a spot in the WWF's upper echelon.

By Frank Krewda

BY ALL OUTWARD appearances, Steven Richards did Billy Gunn a huge disservice when he retired Gunn's nickname of choice—"Mr. Ass"—by defeating him on *Raw* in late-October.

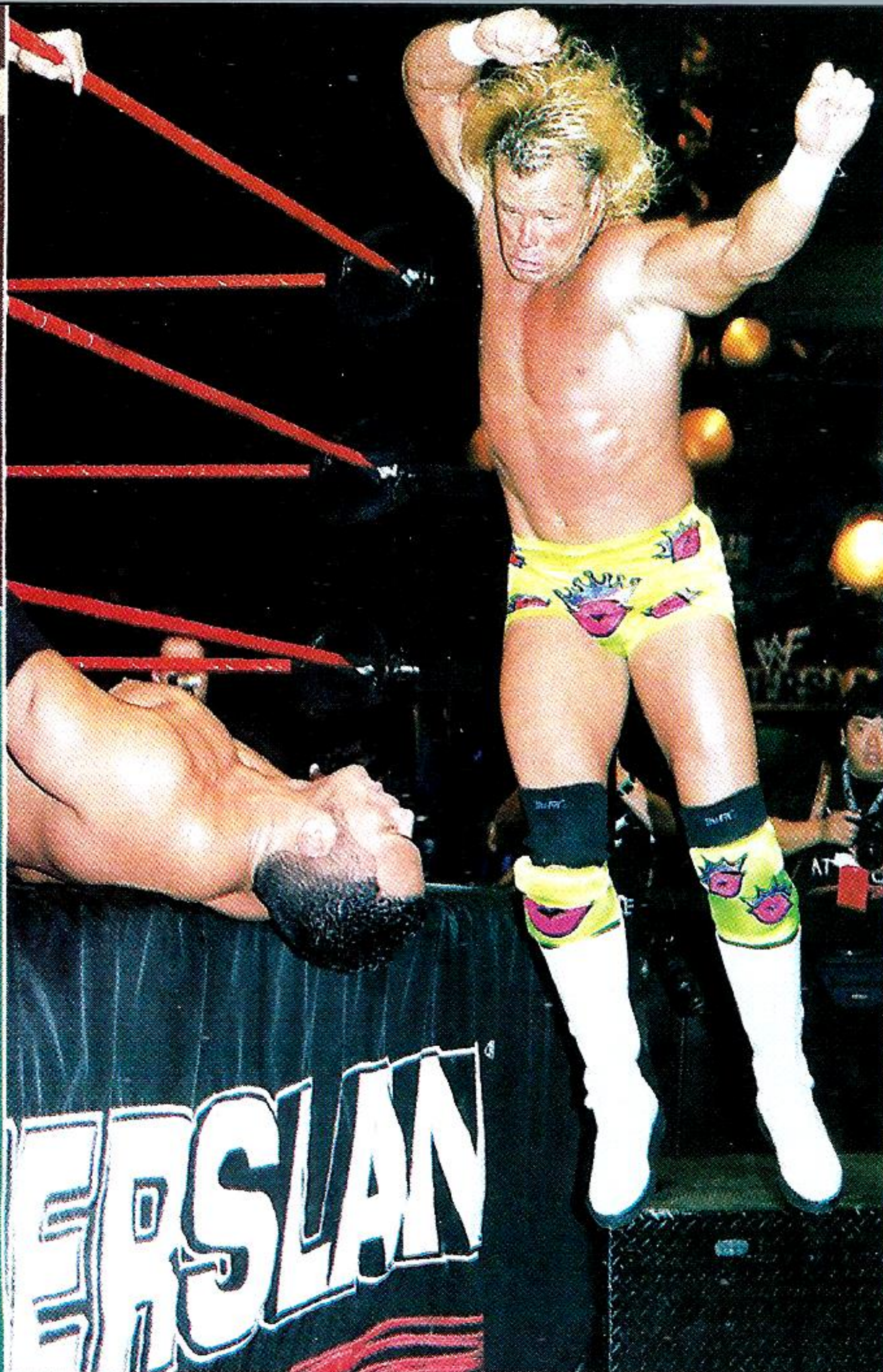
But if Billy Gunn has a sensible bone in his body, he'll recognize that loss for what it really is: the perfect chance to shed his rogue's skin and finally take his career seriously. After all, without that notorious nickname, the notorious gimmick is sure to dry up—and that would serve Gunn better than any irreverent intro tune ever could.

Because as young and talented as Gunn still is, the window of opportunity appears to be closing on his newly shorn head.

Unfortunately, there's scant evidence that Gunn will take advantage of what may be his last chance to become a WWF headliner. Indeed, when you recall the wonderful opportunities Gunn's been afforded to take the next step, you have to wonder whether he'll squander this one, too.

Let's go back to the 1999 King of the Ring tournament, which Gunn won by defeating X-Pac in the final round. The push that changed the careers of men like Kurt Angle, Triple-H, and Owen Hart after they captured the crown never materialized for Gunn. He had exactly one high-profile pay-per-view singles match after that win: a showdown with The Rock at





SummerSlam '99. Don't remember that one? The Rock probably doesn't, either. And believe us, Billy is still trying to forget it. It ended soon after Rock forced him to kiss the rear end of a portly woman Gunn brought to the ring with him.

A few weeks later, Gunn was inexplicably back with Road Dogg as The New Age Outlaws reunited. The singles push was over, the crowd reaction to him as one of the promotion's top singles wrestlers was very disappointing.

Of course, defenders of Gunn said he has always been a great tag team wrestler, that his presence strengthened the tag team roster, that fans wanted to see the Outlaws together again. One little-known fact about Gunn: He's the most accomplished tag team wrestler in WWF history, with eight titles to his credit. But even some of his partners will tell you that the only reason he's won eight championships is because his unmitigated love of himself prevented him from keeping them for long.

"Hell, Billy and I were a well-oiled machine for years," said Road Dogg, co-champ with Gunn for five title reigns. "But success doesn't agree with everyone and it didn't always agree with Billy. There were times when I didn't hold up my end of the bargain, but most of the time Billy's damn ego got in the way."

It was Gunn's self-absorption that led to the creation of his "Mr. Ass" persona in the first place. Sure, the gimmick was a moderate hit with some *female* fans, but how many of the guys in the crowd want to see (let alone cheer or boo) a male wrestler obsessed with his backside?

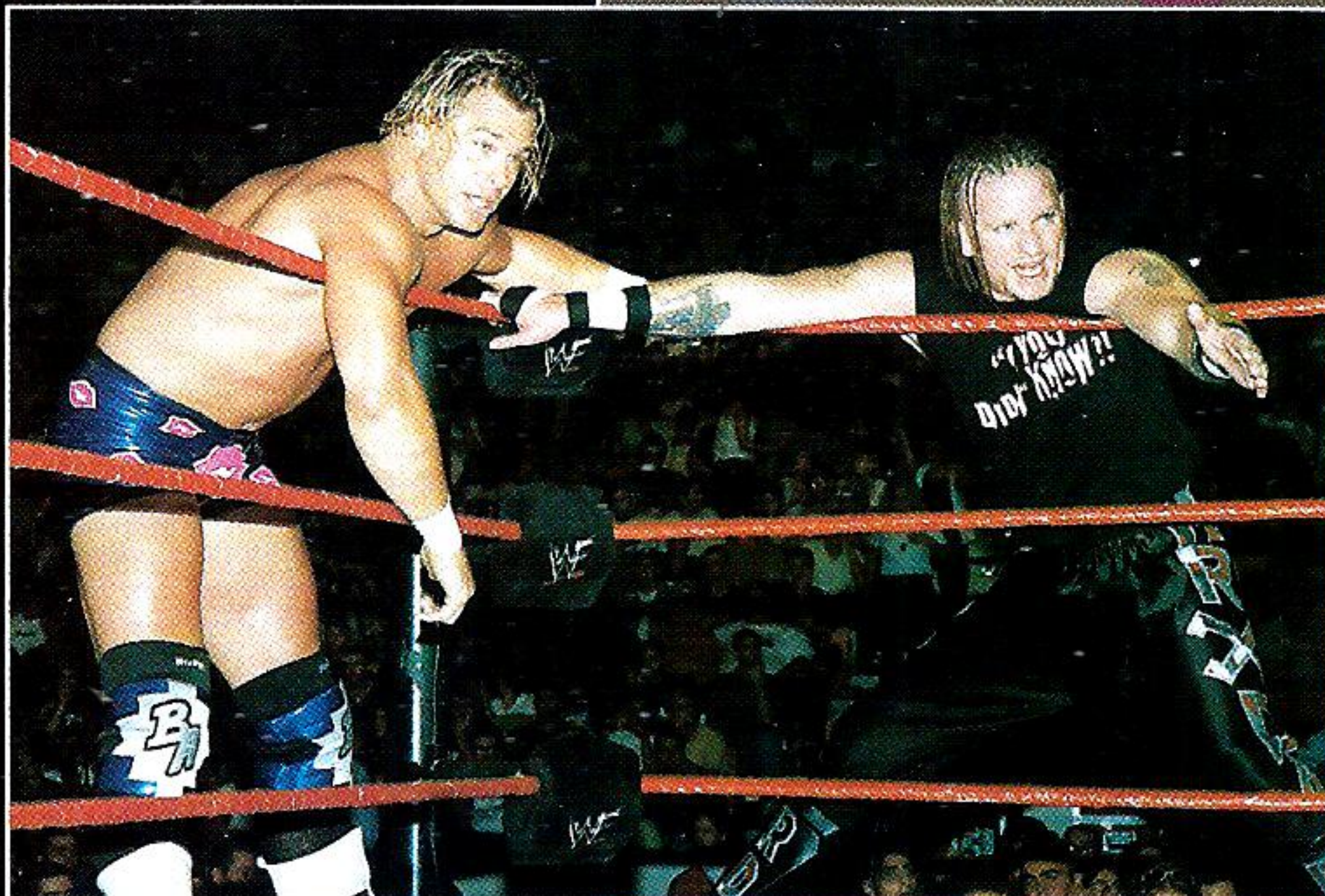
The gimmick did little to advance his career in the WWF. In fact, it eventually got Gunn booted right out of DX—the group he lived and died to be a part of.

"We had some great times together," recalled Triple-H, who put Gunn out of DX and the WWF with a backstage attack that left Billy with a torn rotator cuff. "But Billy wanted to be the star of the group. Actually, he wanted his ass to be the star of the group and we had to put him in his place."

Since his return, Gunn and his former mates have made amends and even wrestled together in a few tag matches, but Helmsley and the rest of DX insist it won't be a permanent reunion.

"At this point, we've all gone our separate ways," he explained. "The best thing for Billy to do is get back in peak wrestling shape and go after a title or two. You know, he's real lucky to be back in the ring. It's not the same WWF that it was when he went out with the shoulder thing. If he wants to get back on top, he's gonna have to forget about DX and 'Mr. Ass' and get to work."

Gunn got his first legitimate chance at becoming a singles star in the WWF during the summer of 1999. Despite some decent showings against headliners such as The Rock (top left) and Mankind (left), his push was halted rather suddenly.



It stands to reason that if he doesn't make the most of this latest singles push he is getting from the WWF, Gunn will be shoved back down the card and perhaps relegated to tag team competition with Road Dogg or another partner.

Sure, Gunn struggled at times against I-C champ Eddie Guerrero this fall. That was to be expected. He must, however, be excited by the positive reaction he has been getting from WWF crowds.

Our message exactly. Gunn has demonstrated a certain maturity since his return (witness his willingness to help Chyna in her emotional feud with former beau Eddie Guerrero), although glimpses of the selfish, arrogant Billy Gunn shine through.

Still, people were for the most part excited when he returned. They didn't forget about him and must still see a lot of potential in him. Of course, aligning himself with Chyna at the height of her popularity didn't hurt, either.

But with a roster full of emerging, hungry super-

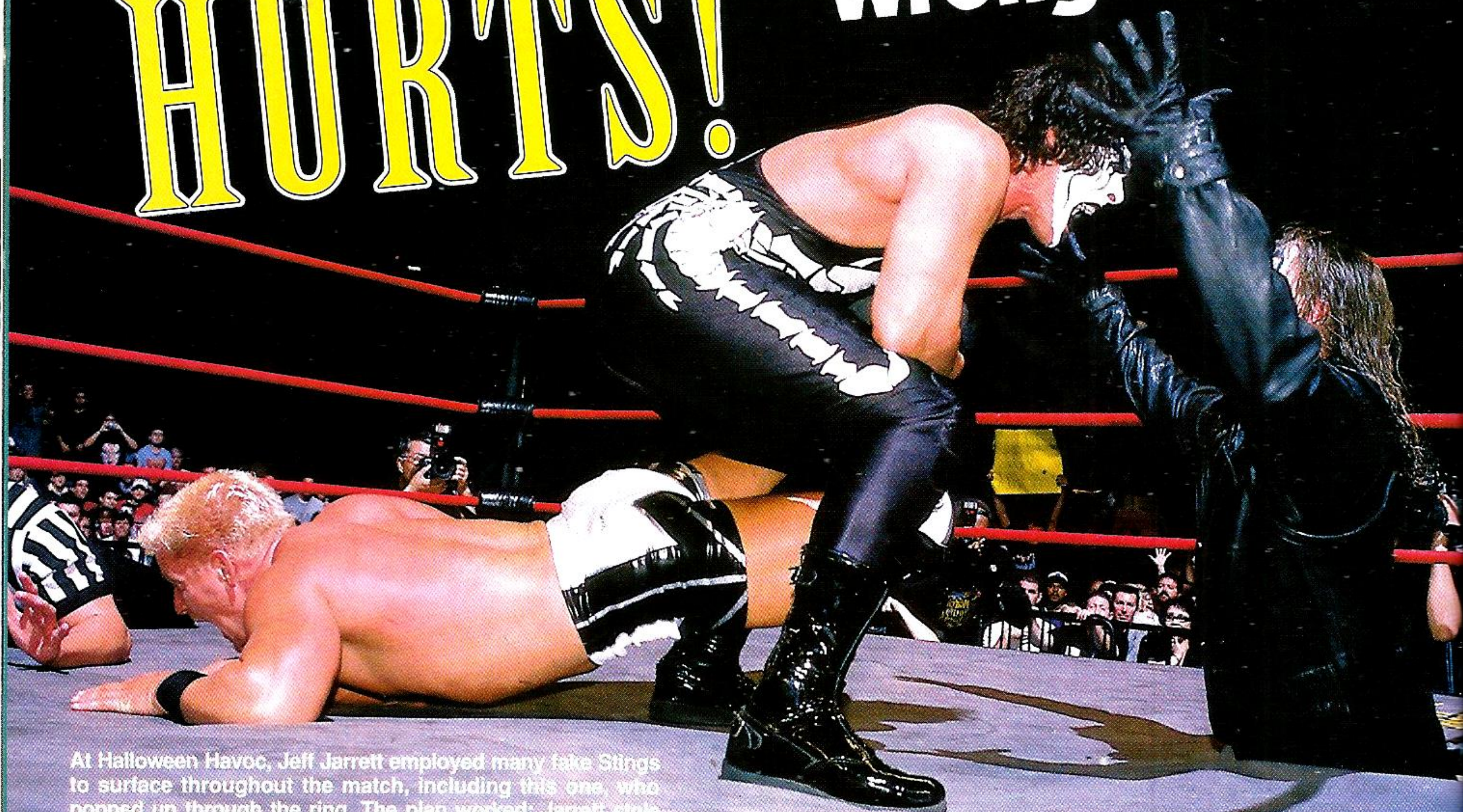
stars like Angle, The Radicals, The Hardy Boyz, and Edge and Christian, among others, it will take more than cheers and a tight pair of trunks for Gunn to reach his potential. It will take focus—and more than a few victories over the WWF elite. Otherwise, there might not be any room left at the top for him.

Yes, it's time for Billy Gunn to get serious. It's time for his fans to demand that of their hero, and it's time for Gunn to demand that of himself.

If he doesn't, there's always the chance of *another* New Age Outlaws reunion, right? □

STUNG WHERE IT HURTS!

**Jarrett
Is Making
A Bad
Impression
On The
Wrong Man**



At Halloween Havoc, Jeff Jarrett employed many fake Stings to surface throughout the match, including this one, who popped up through the ring. The plan worked; Jarrett stole the match from the confused "Stinger."

Photo by Scott Cunningham/WCW Magazine

Jeff Jarrett thought he'd get a few laughs by kicking Sting while he was seemingly down. Instead, he managed to anger one of the most dangerous wrestlers in the history of the sport

By Frank Krewda

LET'S FACE IT. Sting hasn't been himself ever since that self-imposed 15-month exile in 1996-97. Sure, he's won a tag title or two and the WCW World title, but for the most part, his career has been erratic at best.

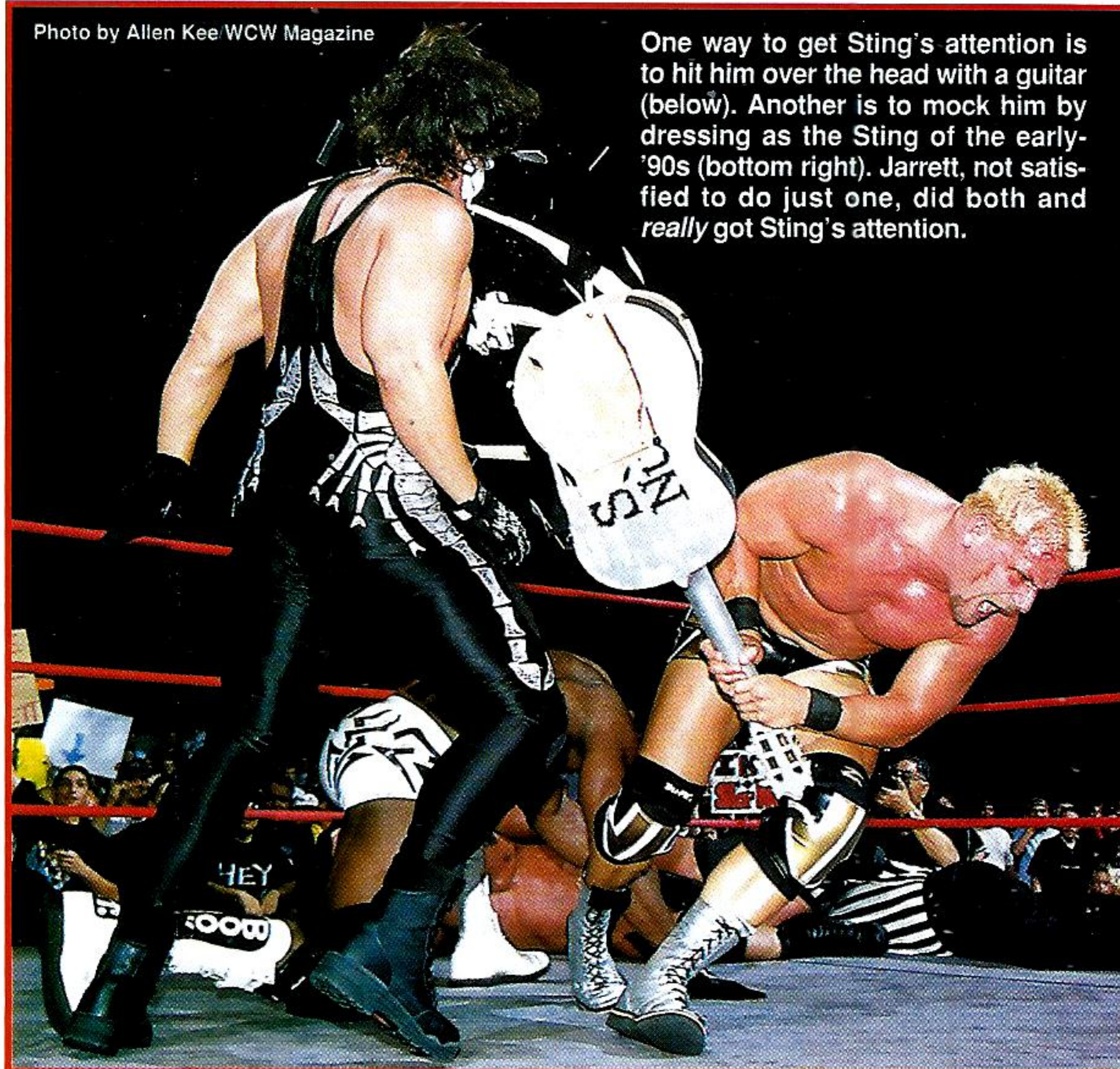
The last few years were dotted with pointless feuds, the most meaningless of which was his recent summer-long war with



Photo by Scott Cunningham/WCW Magazine

INSIDE WRESTLING

Photo by Allen Kee/WCW Magazine



One way to get Sting's attention is to hit him over the head with a guitar (below). Another is to mock him by dressing as the Sting of the early-'90s (bottom right). Jarrett, not satisfied to do just one, did both and really got Sting's attention.

said. But what really angered Sting was Jarrett's accusations that his heart wasn't in wrestling anymore, that he was simply going through the motions out there, and that he was ripping off his legions of fans around the world by putting in less than a total effort.

"Them's fightin' words, brother," said new WCW CEO Ric Flair. "I've known Sting a long time. I know how to get under his skin. I know what makes the man tick, and I know what sends him over the edge. Sting takes his fans seriously, and if anyone suggests that he's mistreating them, it's grounds for an ass-kicking in Sting's book."

Photo by Scott Cunningham/WCW Magazine



Vampiro. Add to that a number of assorted injuries that seemed to have sapped Sting's focus in the ring, and even his staunchest fans will admit that the "Stinger" has seemed distracted at times.

Not surprisingly, the man from Venice Beach, California, seems perfectly willing to accept the criticism from the fans and from his friends.

"Hey, the fans buy the tickets," Sting said recently. "They're entitled to call it like they see it. If I've seemed distracted at times, it's because I have been."

But one man he will not tolerate any criticism from—especially criticism that questions his dedication to the sport and his fans—is ol' slappy himself, Jeff Jarrett.

Jarrett made the mistake of doing what Ric Flair, the Steiners, Hulk Hogan, and even Bill Goldberg have never done: question Sting's heart.

Even during the bleakest periods of Sting's magnificent career, his most bitter rivals never questioned Sting's resolve or his dedication to his fans. "Tell ya what,"

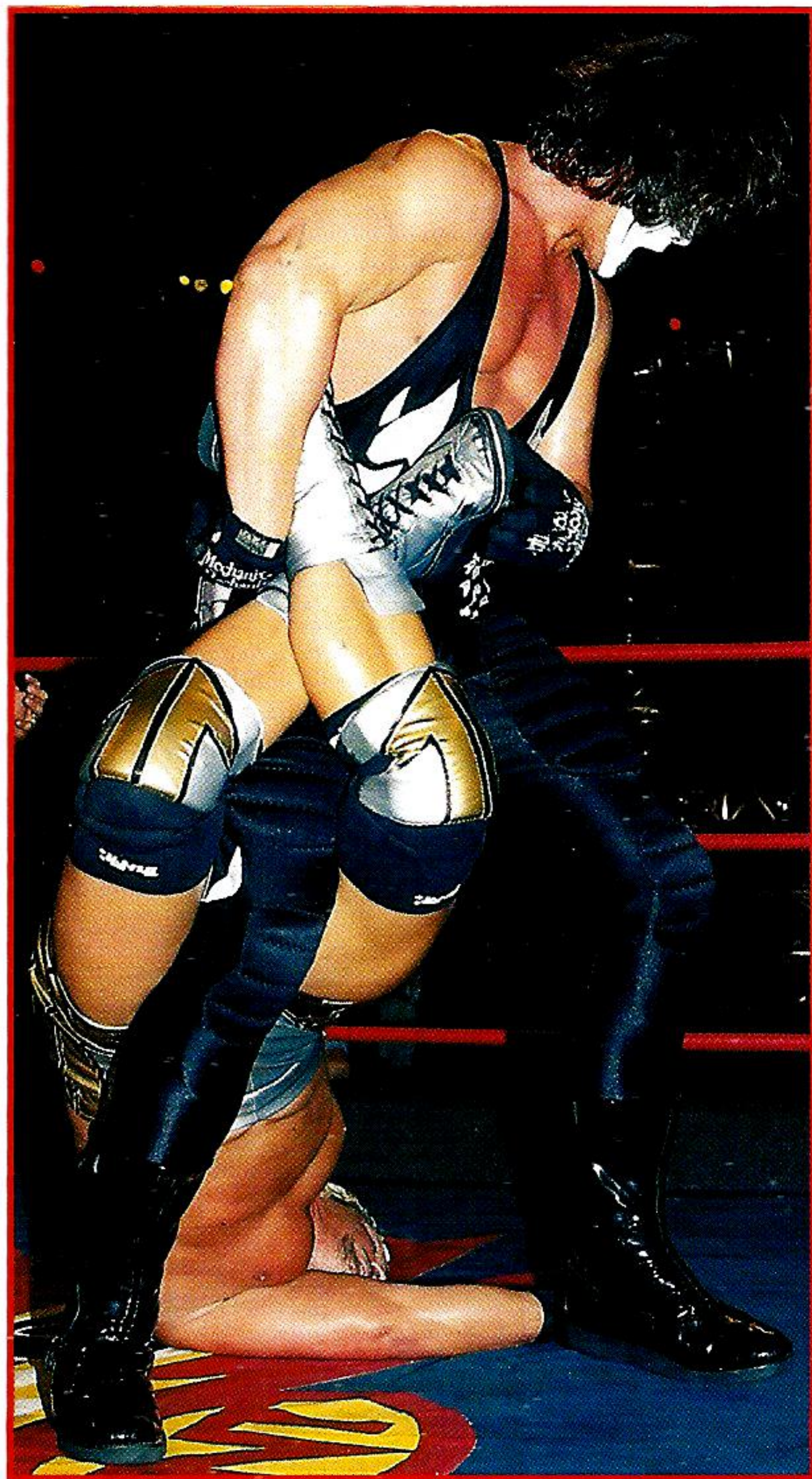
said Kevin Nash. "When we came up with the NWO Wolfpac, I wondered about Sting's desire to bend the rules. But I never, ever questioned his heart. I knew that if Sting was gonna run with the 'Pac, he'd give 100 percent. Anybody who thinks otherwise is either a damn fool or doesn't know the man very well."

In Jarrett's case, it's probably a little of both. Regardless, Jarrett released a dam of hostility in Sting when he showed up on *Nitro* and *Thunder* dressed like an

early-'90s "Stinger." Then he exacerbated matters by telling the young Sting fans that he'd sign their autographs for \$15 each—"just like the real Sting," Jarrett

Chapter one of the Sting-Jarrett canon was penned at Halloween Havoc when Jarrett landed two guitar shots to Sting's head to score a pinfall win. Still, Sting looked any-

thing but distracted, punched his way through a number of "fake" Stings until Jarrett used his guitar to secure the victory.



But it wasn't Jarrett's win, or the guitar shots, or even the impostors that everyone in WCW was talking about after the match. It was the fire in Sting's eyes that seemingly flickered out when he took the vow of silence four years ago.

That fire was ignited several months back, when Jarrett decided he wanted to tangle with a bored and aging superstar who'd seemingly lost his passion for the sport. At the MGM Grand Ballroom on October 29, Jeff Jarrett saw just how high Sting can turn up the flame—even in defeat.

"I've been hearing all about 'Sting this' and 'Sting that,'" Jarrett

complained to INSIDE WRESTLING. "But the fact is, I beat his sorry old hide at Halloween Havoc. And I'll beat him again tomorrow. You know why? Because I have more heart than he has. I care about my career. I care about the fans."

Falser words have never been spoken. You can be sure Jarrett cares about his career, but he couldn't care less about the fans, and couldn't be more afraid of the man they call Sting. And for good reason. One of wrestling's greatest performers feels like he has a reason to wrestle again.

"Has Jarrett's behavior inspired me?"

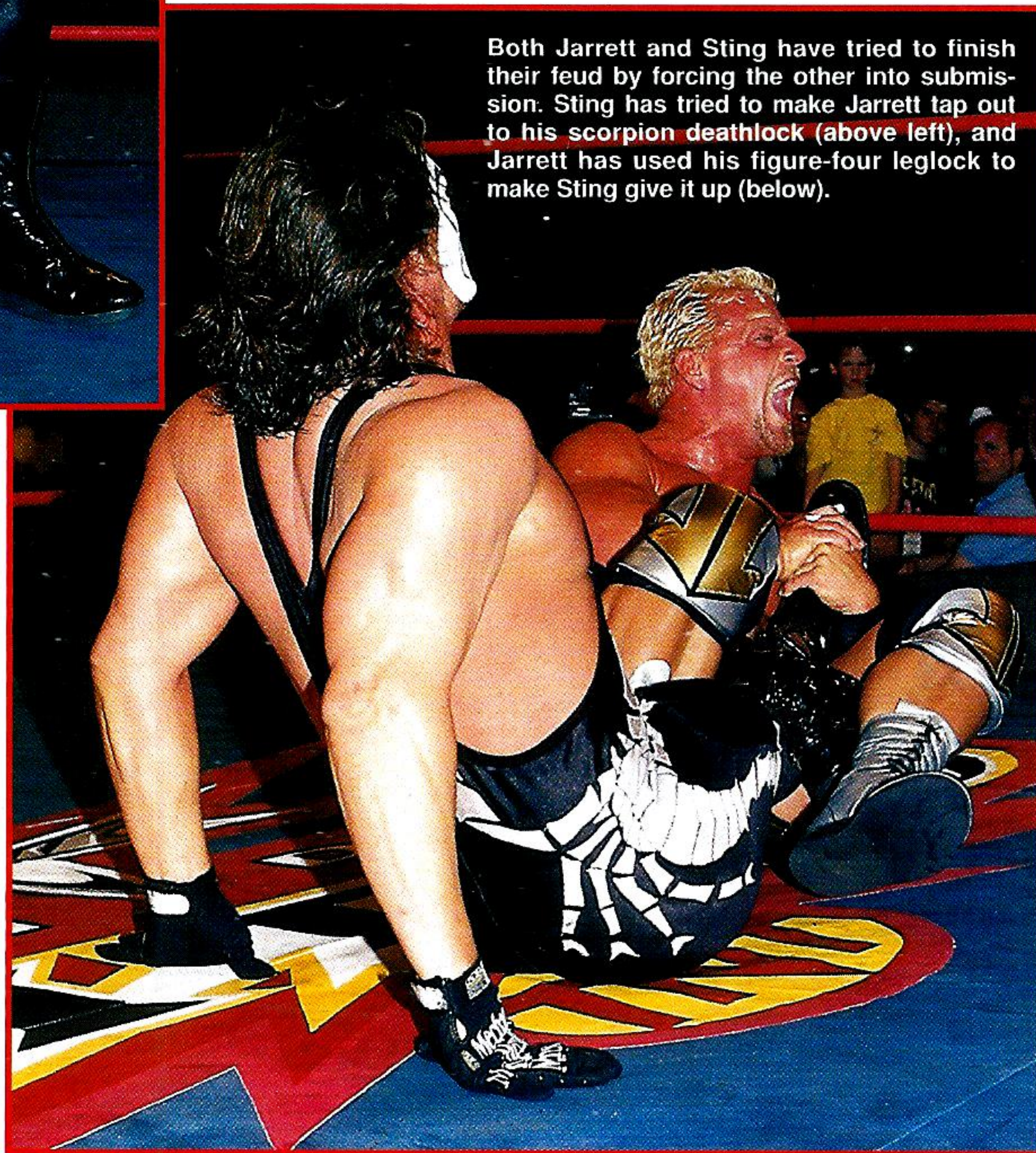
Sting asked rhetorically. "Of course it has. No one's ever had the nerve to question my dedication to this sport and especially to my fans. That's why the feud's a long way from over. It's not about winning titles or winning matches. It's about teaching Jeff Jarrett what happens when you doubt Sting."

But at this point in his career, does Sting still have enough left to beat Jarrett consistently? And why be content to beat on Jarrett? Why not channel the fire into a strong title campaign?

"One thing at a time," Sting cautioned. "First, I'll take care of Jarrett. Then I'll worry about belts and all that. Besides, I won't be happy with any belt, or anything else, until I shut that little punk's mouth once and for all. And I'm willing to take 1,000 guitar shots to do it."

Up next, chapter two ...

Both Jarrett and Sting have tried to finish their feud by forcing the other into submission. Sting has tried to make Jarrett tap out to his scorpion deathlock (above left), and Jarrett has used his figure-four leglock to make Sting give it up (below).



WHO THE

Photo By Tammie Arroyo



You want comedy? The Rock can do comedy. Remember that *This Is Your Life* skit he did with Mankind in 1999? We can see why Hollywood might want him on a full-time basis.



KNOWS ROCK'S ROLE?

Is he ditching wrestling for Hollywood?

The thrill of being a big part of a successful movie is great, but can this compare to the thrill The Rock gets when a crowd erupts as he drives Chris Benoit into the mat with a Rock bottom?

WWF fans must be

thrilled with The Rock's

blossoming film career,

but aren't they worried

the people's champion

might abandon wrestling

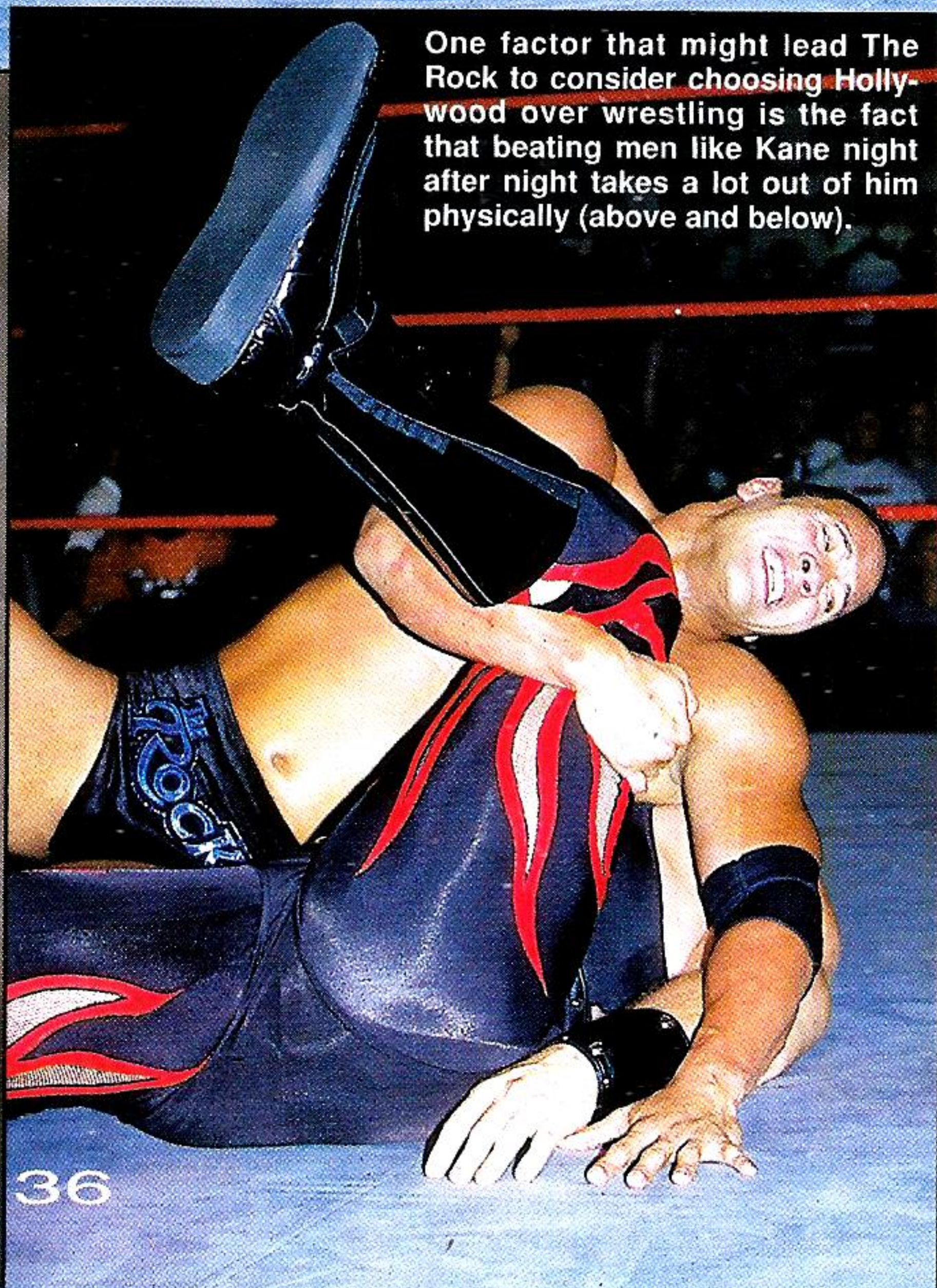
forever? The Rock

insists he won't

By Harry Burkett

THE ROCK LEARNED almost everything he knows about entertaining a wrestling crowd from an unlikely source. No, it wasn't Hulk Hogan, Jimmy Snuka, or even his father, Rocky Johnson. It was *The Phantom Of The Opera*.

Just to clarify for our culturally deficient readers, The Phantom of the Opera wasn't one-half of a tag team that held the USWA tag team title in 1994. *The Phantom Of The Opera* was a Broadway play starring Michael Crawford. In the Winter 1998 issue of *Wrestling True Life Stories*, Dwayne Johnson described the epiphany he experienced while watching *Phantom* with his wife. "Now I know how the fans feel when they are emotionally spent," he said. The Rock went on to describe how The Phantom held the audience in the palm of his hand, controlling everyone in the seats with a simple gesture, a quivering note, or a sad melody.



One factor that might lead The Rock to consider choosing Hollywood over wrestling is the fact that beating men like Kane night after night takes a lot out of him physically (above and below).

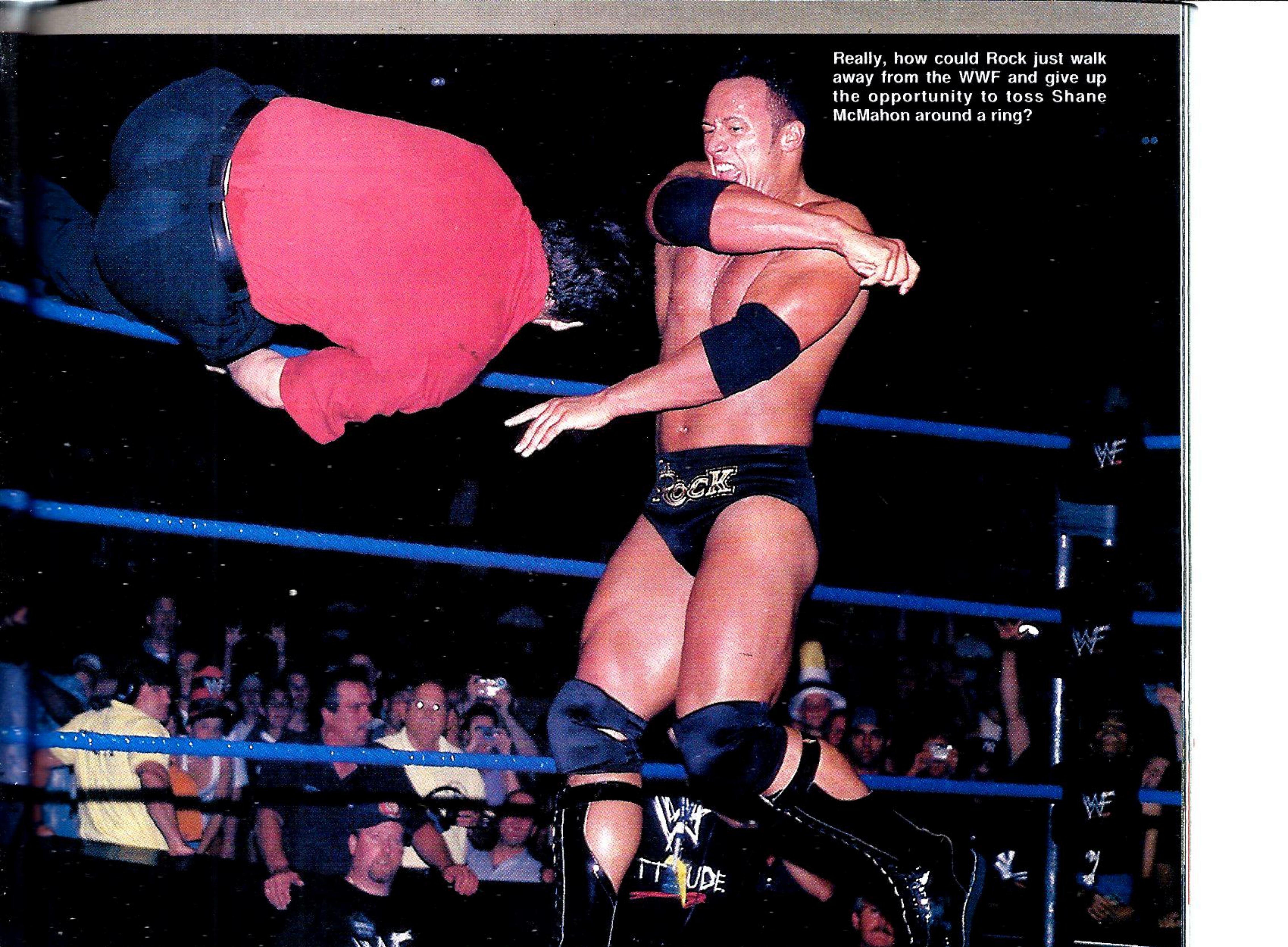
The Rock has mastered that same "X" factor, able to choreograph a rowdy mass of wrestling fans with a simple catchphrase, a dramatic pause, or a lift of the eyebrow.

That's why it is natural for The Rock to excel in movie acting. The Rock's charisma could translate through a movie camera as easily as a WWF camera.

His acting talent was displayed on *That '70s Show*, in which he played his father. He impressed viewers again on *Saturday Night Live* last year.

But it's his role as The Scorpion King in *The Mummy II* that has people talking. He impressed the director and producers of the film so much that he was invited to do a prequel called *The Scorpion King*, a film in which he will obviously play the lead role.

"The Rock is well on his way to becoming not only the most electrifying man in sports entertainment, but the most electrifying man in entertainment ... period," commented the five-time former WWF

A photograph of The Rock in a wrestling ring. He is shirtless, wearing black trunks with "ROCK" written on them, and black knee pads. He is in a celebratory pose, with his arms raised and a wide smile. A referee in a red shirt and blue pants is bent over in front of him. The background shows a crowd of spectators in a dark arena.

Really, how could Rock just walk away from the WWF and give up the opportunity to toss Shane McMahon around a ring?

World champion. "WWF fans can't get enough of The Rock. Movie-goers can't get enough of The Rock. And The Rock says this: There's only so much of The Rock that can be spread around, so everyone must have patience. So when you see The Rock on *Smackdown* or *Raw*, take the opportunity to savor The Rock, inhale The Rock, and enjoy The Rock. When the people go to the movie theaters to see The Rock as The Scorpion King, they should savor the moment, because The Rock is a proud member of the WWF first and foremost, and a Hollywood megastar second."

Fans must remember that statement when The Rock takes time off from wrestling to pursue his acting career. Kurt Angle, Steve Austin, Triple-H, and Chris Benoit might have free reign over the WWF this spring as The Rock devotes more of his time to *The Scorpion King*.

The Rock emphasizes that wrestling is his first love and that acting is only a part-time job. But that's easy to say when, at the moment, wrestling is

a more lucrative profession for The Rock than acting. Sure, the \$5.5-million he's getting for *The Scorpion King* is a lot of money, but for now it's a one-shot deal. What happens if studio moguls, aware of the phenomenal success of the WWF in general, want to commit Rock to a full-time career? Could he resist the temptation?

And should he? After all, acting is a safer profession than wrestling. He wouldn't have to worry about Triple-H's pedigrees, Chris Benoit's chops, or Kurt Angle's suplexes. Hiatuses between film commitments would ensure a less hectic schedule than his wrestling career, which keeps Rock on the road most of the year.

Also, The Rock would enjoy greater longevity in acting. Busted up knees wouldn't force him to retire at age 40. The Rock, like Mel Gibson, could convey a sexual magnetism that's appealing to females of any age and, at the same time, project a rugged manliness that's appealing to male movie-goers.

Wrestling fans, like movie fans, can be fickle. If

THE ROCK IN MOVIE HISTORY

The Rock has good looks, charisma, and tremendous acting ability—all the traits of a classic leading man. We think The Rock has a bright future in Hollywood, but we also wondered how Rock would have fared in great movies of the past. If only old-time Hollywood could have smelled what The Rock was cookin'!

The Wizard Of Oz (1939): The Rock would settle for nothing less than the all-powerful Oz. The Rock's booming voice would have Dorothy trembling in her little ruby slippers. Imagine The Rock of Oz chewing out The Tin Man: "You can take that heart, turn it sideways, and stick it straight up ..."

Gone With The Wind (1939): He would have been a controversial, yet very debonair Rock Butler. Rock would have bent Scarlett O'Hara over his knee and spanked the

spoiled brat as if she were Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley. The most famous line of the movie is tailor-made for The Rock: "Frankly, my dear, The Rock doesn't give a damn!"

Casablanca (1943): Humphrey Bogart had that same cocky quality as The Rock, so it's no doubt Rock would have been great opposite Ingrid Bergman in *Casablanca*. The Rock-Bergman romance would have been more tumultuous, with Rock saying, "Of all the gin joints, you had to bring your trash bag-totin' ho self into The Rock's!"

The Ten Commandments (1956): Before The Rock let the people's elbow go to work on Pharoah, it would have been interesting to see how Rock fared in the most crucial scene of the movie. The Rock would have been a magnificent Moses, parting the Red Sea with one lift of his eyebrow.

Blue Hawaii (1961): Elvis Presley was one of The Rock's idols. His rendition of "Smackdown Hotel" pays homage to "The King." But wouldn't The Rock have looked more natural on the beaches of Waikiki, walking around in flip-flops and serenading the girls? At least The Rock would have removed his Aloha shirt at some point.

Guess Who's Coming To Dinner (1967): The Rock would replace Sidney Poitier, playing a black man who married a white woman. The original focused on Poitier's strained relationship with the woman's parents. In the modern version, Rikishi would solve the problem by run-

It must be a pretty spectacular feeling to be able to get an audience to react so passionately to you by simply lifting your nose into the air.



you don't believe that, look up Hulk Hogan in the white pages the next time you're in Tampa.

Wouldn't a career in Hollywood offer more long-term rewards than a career in the WWF?

Not necessarily. Remember how The Rock was enamored by *The Phantom Of The Opera*? The quality of the performance was impeccable. But that isn't what spoke to The Rock's heart. It was the people sitting in the audience, with mouths agape, speaking in hushed whispers, and crying tears of sorrow—expressing whatever emotion evoked by the actors on stage.

The Rock thrives on commanding the attention and emotions of a live audience. Having that kind of power provides a thrill that few people ever experience. The Rock *must* have that thrill. It's why he gets out of bed in the morning.

"There's nothing like having an audience hang on your every word," he said. "The Rock can command 20,000 people to shut their mouths with a simple flash of his hand. That's not because The Rock takes control of the people. The people want to be controlled because they want to go on the ride. It just so happens that The Rock is the best ride in town."

Other performers have described that phenomenon. David Hasselhoff, thanks to *Baywatch* and the millions of records he has sold in Germany, doesn't have to work another day of his life. However, Hasselhoff recently debuted in the Broadway version of *Dr. Jekyll And Mr. Hyde* just because he

ning over The Rock's new in-laws.

Dirty Harry (1971): Clint Eastwood uttered one of the most famous catchphrases ever: "Go ahead, punk, make my day!" That sounds like some of The Rock's material. Imagine this scene. Rock: "Has someone read you your rights?" Thug: "Well, no ..." Rock: "It doesn't matter if someone read you your rights!"

Rocky III (1982): This movie was named after him. Rocky Johnson did the Ali shuffle in the ring, and The Rock would do some prancing of his own. The Rock would knock out Mr. T in the first round. Unlike Sylvester Stallone, Rock would have floored Hulk Hogan in the opening scene. That alone would be worth the price of admission.

Men In Black (1998): Move over, Will Smith. The Rock would have been much better co-starring with Tommy Lee Jones. The Rock has the shades and the coolness and would have laid the smack down on those icky aliens. If Vince McMahon could replace Tommy Lee Jones, it would be an even bigger hit.

Shaft (2000): Samuel L. Jackson was a little too old and little too sneaky-looking to play Shaft. The Rock would have been perfect. "Can you dig it?" would become Rock's new catchphrase. That might be the first time The Rock could be accused of copying Booker T, instead of the other way around.

didn't think his 30-year career would have been complete without it. Henry Winkler and John Ritter, neither of whom had performed on Broadway since the 1970s, recently returned to do a Neil Simon play.

All of these performers repeat the same line: "There's nothing like the instant response of a live audience." The Rolling Stones could have sat in a comfy studio and churned out records for the last 35 years. But every once in a while, that craving for a live audience is too much for them to resist.

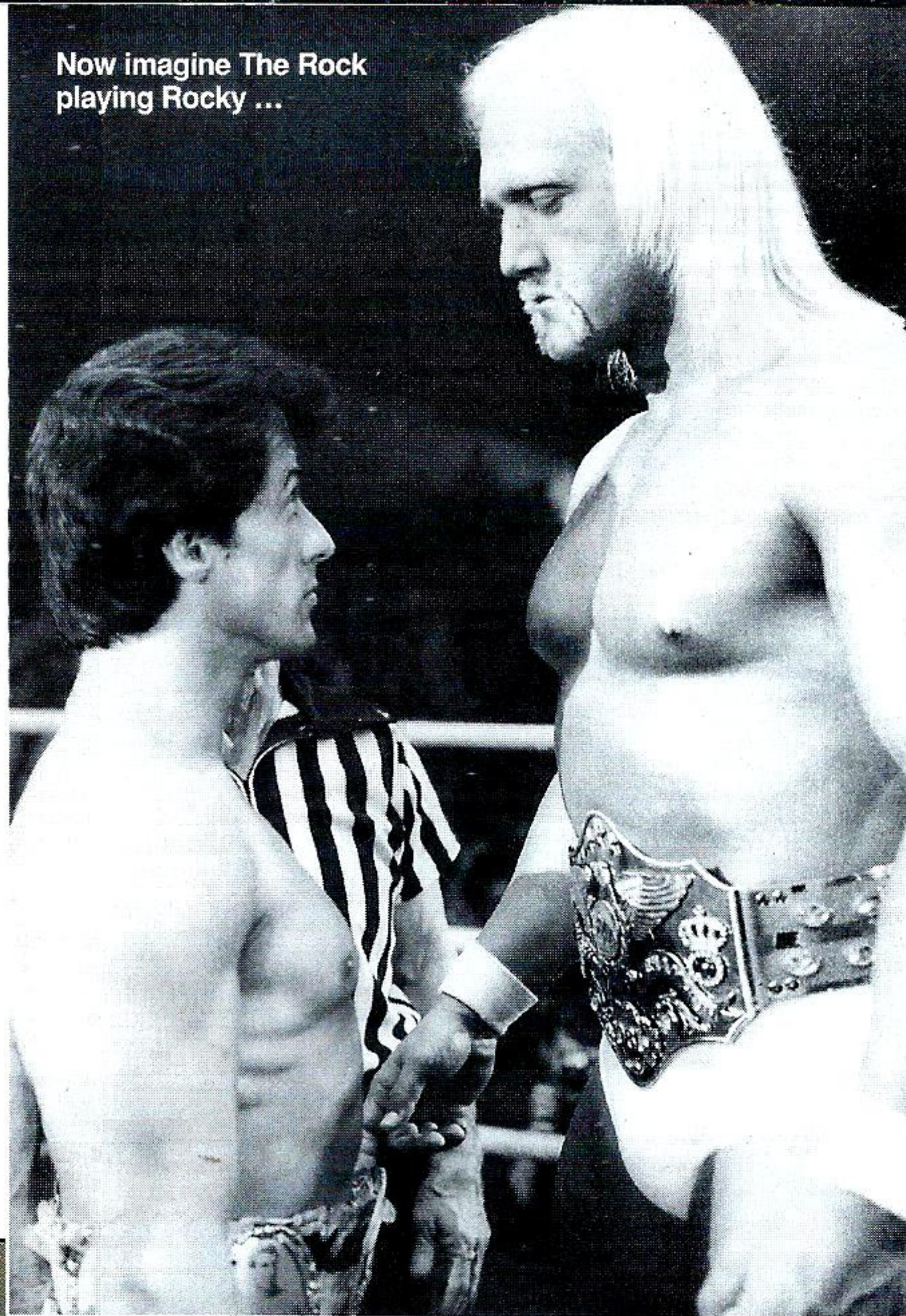
The Rock simply doesn't get the same response by performing in front of an inanimate camera. A director yelling "Action!" just isn't the same as millions ... and millions of The Rock's fans chanting, "Rock-y! Rock-y! Rock-y!"

Why is The Rock flirting with Hollywood in the first place? He wants to be the first wrestler to be taken seriously in the film industry. Hulk Hogan came close, based on the commercial success of his earlier movies. Roddy Piper came close, based on his acting ability. But neither man succeeded in parlaying his wrestling career into a full-time acting career.

Mike Mazurki, a rugged wrestler of the 1940s and '50s, was probably the most successful wrestler-turned-actor ever, co-starring in everything from John Wayne movies to *Gilligan's Island*. But the fact that he isn't remembered as a household name in either industry proves that he didn't truly succeed.

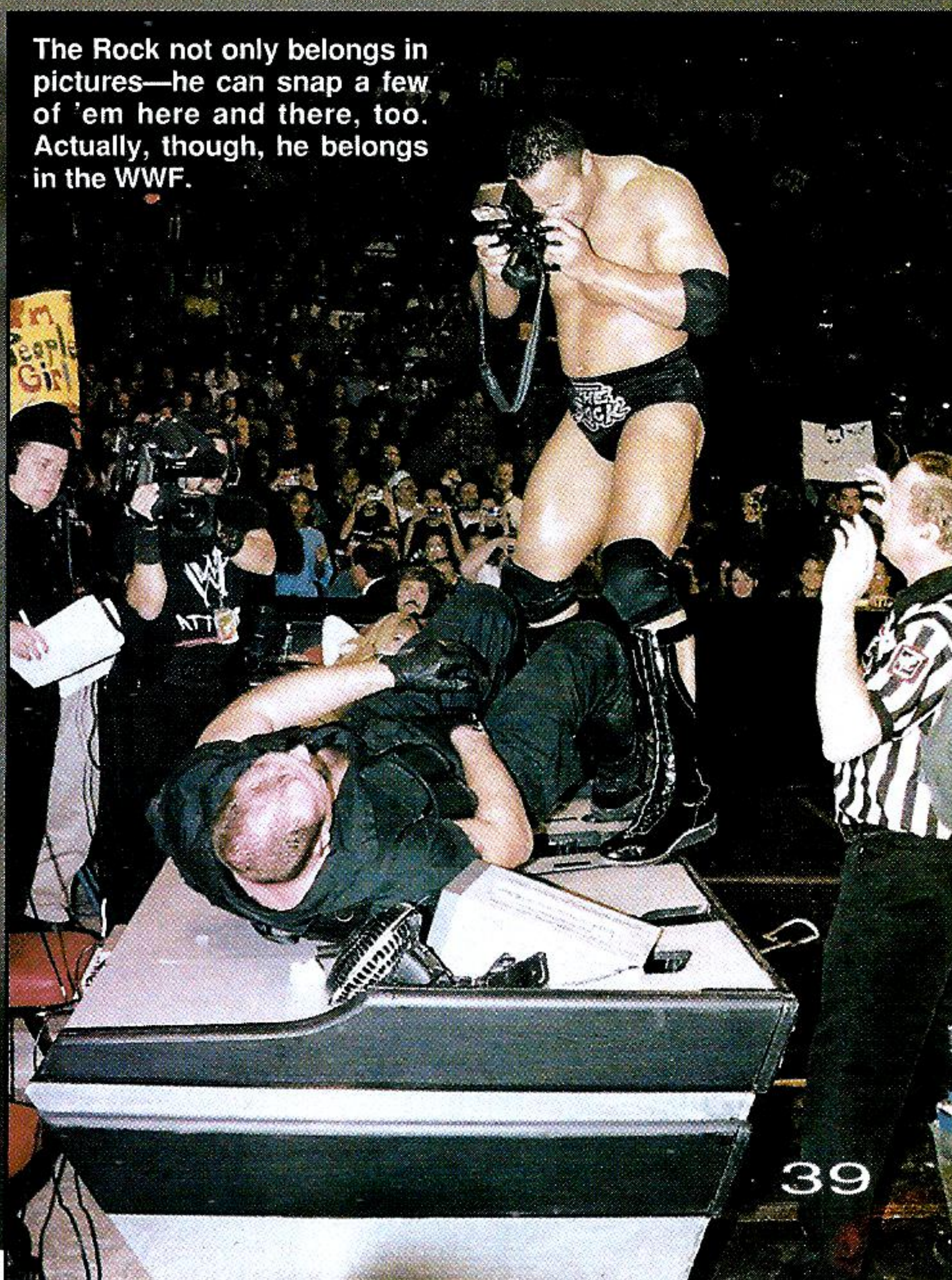
Will The Rock be the first superstar to conquer

Now imagine The Rock playing Rocky ...



wrestling and acting? That is no doubt his ambition. But long after the movie director shoots the final scene, he knows that wrestling fans will continue chanting his name. What could be more satisfying? □

The Rock not only belongs in pictures—he can snap a few of 'em here and there, too. Actually, though, he belongs in the WWF.





The knock on C.W. Anderson is that he's too bland, too plain to make it to the top in any big promotion. But "The Enforcer" is quietly establishing himself as one of ECW's most valuable commodities



C.W. Anderson and Kid Kash are polar opposites. Kash grabbed attention by wowing ECW fans with stunning off-the-top-rope maneuvers. Anderson is making a name for *himself* by gutting out tough, hard-fought wins on a weekly basis.

YOU CAN'T SPELL ECW WITHOUT C.W.

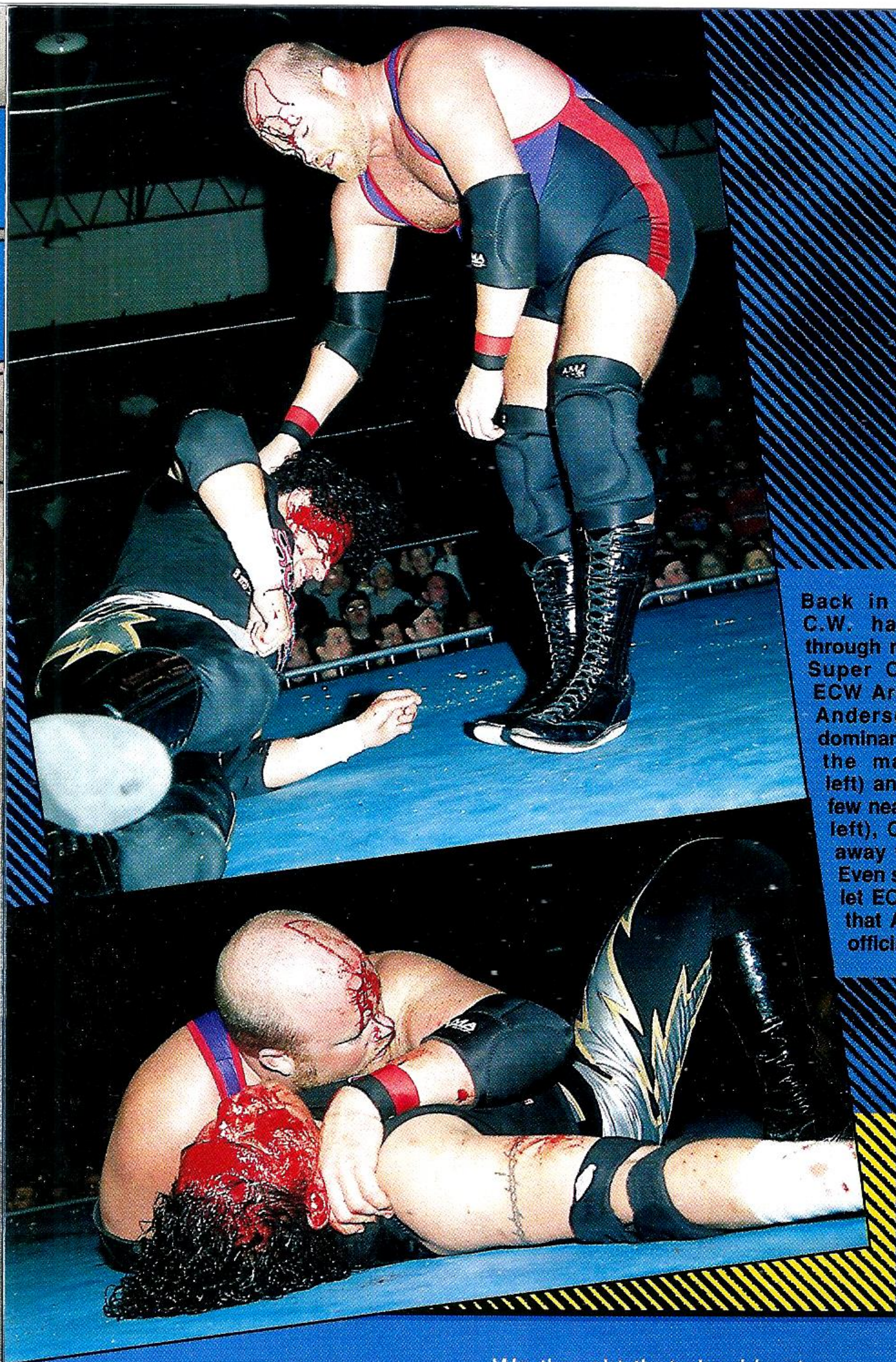
How Could A Mid-Carder Be So Valuable?

By Dan Murphy

IF YOU WERE to take a poll prior to an ECW card, you probably wouldn't find too many people who came to the arena just because C.W. Anderson was on

the lineup. And if you polled those same people about what they thought was the worst match on the card on their way out, not many would find fault with C.W.'s bout.

At least those were our results after a series of unofficial ECW



bouts. As of press time, they were the ECW TV and World champions, respectively.

C.W. Anderson may not be the strongest or most charismatic wrestler in ECW, but he may well be one of the smartest. Anderson knows there's always an opportunity for advancement. That's why he continues to give great performances on the undercard each and every night. That's why he reviews videotapes in his hotel room after every show instead of going out and partying with the rest of the boys.

"It's no secret that C.W. patterned himself after Arn and Ole Anderson, and that mentality has helped him do well in ECW," said Kevin Reynolds, INSIDE WRESTLING's resident ECW analyst. "He's a throwback to the wrestlers of the 1970s and early-1980s. He takes things one match at a time and gives his all every time he's in the ring. He doesn't need to call attention to himself. In his own way, he's already doing it. He's a classic wrestler."

He's also a master mat technician and a student of the game. Recently, Anderson invited us to join him in the stands during an ECW event. Earlier in the evening, he had teamed with Swinger and Diamond in a losing effort to Chilly Willy, Mikey Whipwreck, and Mahoney. Showered and dressed in khaki pants and a pink golf shirt, Anderson looks less like the paunchy master of the spinebuster and more like a barrel-chested business executive. Once he adds his reading glasses, the metamorphosis is complete. We take a seat in the corner of the bleachers. The fans who had lustily booed him less than an hour earlier barely notice him now. Those who do just nod and smile. Nobody hassles him, nobody asks for his autograph. Jerry Lynn and Justin Credible are in the ring.

entrance and exit polls. While the results may not be scientific, they confirm one of our sneaking suspicions: When it comes to C.W. Anderson, fans expect a hard-nosed, physical effort regardless of opponent. And Anderson delivers.

Anderson is nothing if not consistent. He's not flashy, he doesn't use any outrageous gimmicks, and he doesn't call a lot of attention to himself in interviews.

Oh, he's also becoming one of ECW's most valuable competitors.

We thought that should get a mention, too.

It's no secret that ECW owner Paul Heyman doesn't have the deep pockets of Vince McMahon or Time Warner. When it comes to a bidding war over talent, ECW invariably comes out the loser. And when the Ravens, the Tazzes, and the Dudleys seek greener pastures elsewhere, the mid-card talent gets the opportunity to shine. Just one year ago, Rhino was a green brawler and not much else, and Steve Corino was stuck in mid-card

Anderson's eyes are fixed on the action.

"The key for Jerry is to avoid a fistfight, Murph," Anderson says in a voice much quieter than you'd expect from the 230-pounder. "The longer this match goes, the more it favors Jerry. Justin loses his cool when things start going wrong. The moment he does, that's when Jerry has to end it quick."

Anderson made mental notes of the entire match. When Lynn ducked a clothesline and went for a crucifix, Anderson pointed out that Lynn's weight was too high, and Credible was able to spin Lynn into a modified Spicolli driver. When Credible Irish-whipped Lynn into the ropes, Anderson grinned. "Boom! Spinebuster, right there. Lynn had his head down and left his solar plexus open. That would be the end of the match."

As for those who claim Anderson doesn't have the personality to break through to the upper tier, well, give him a chance. Though he prefers a conservative ring style, Anderson isn't a wet blanket. He has a sense of humor, and he gets along with most members of ECW's roster. It's just that when it comes to wrestling, Anderson stays serious. And are those critics the same people who gush over Arn Anderson's classic understated interviews?

After almost seven years in the business, C.W. is starting to win over the hardcore ECW fans as well. Earlier this year, he received a standing ovation from the ECW Arena faithful after a match against Super Crazy.

But for now, C.W. knows his role. "ECW's a big place. There's room for the hardcore stuff and the aerial stuff, and for my forte, the

matwork," Anderson said. "I'm going to go out there against whoever they put in the ring against me, and I'm going to do whatever it takes to win the match. That's what I know how to do, and that's what I'm going to do."

Call him underrated if you will, but C.W. Anderson just might be ECW's future. And there's nothing understated about that. □

As a member of Lou E. Dangerously's New Dangerous Alliance, Anderson provided most of the group's brawn. The Alliance was basically a comedy troupe, but it did help Anderson establish his ECW presence.



The second deadliest move in Anderson's repertoire is his jaw-jarring superkick (his first, of course, is his spinebuster). Anderson often uses the move to turn the tide of a match, just like he's doing here with Nova.

hotseat

BOOKER T

"GOLDBERG ISN'T THE FUTURE OF WCW—I AM!"

WHO HAS ENJOYED more championship reigns in the history of the NWA/WCW? The answer: Ric Flair. But it may surprise you to find out who places a close second and will, in all likelihood, surpass Flair's record before his career is over. Three World titles, 10 World tag team titles, and six TV titles—a total of 19 championship reigns—comprise Booker T's stellar seven-year career in WCW.

The pinnacle of Booker's career occurred on July 9, when he defeated Jeff Jarrett for his first WCW World title. Booker had been relegated to his tired, old G.I. Bro gimmick only a few months earlier, and most experts thought his career was on life support. That all changed when Hulk Hogan's "win" over Jarrett at Bash at the Beach was deemed null and void by Vince Russo, and Booker beat Jarrett in a hastily arranged main event.

One word could describe the new champion: deserving.

A month later, Booker lost the belt to Kevin Nash in a match plagued by interference, but then he regained it at Fall Brawl. As Booker T's title defense against Scott Steiner loomed for Halloween Havoc, "Big Poppa Pump" was considered the odds-on favorite. Once again, most of the experts underestimated Booker T. He beat Steiner by disqualification.

Senior Writer Harry Burkett inter-

viewed the WCW World champion during a recent visit to INSIDE WRESTLING's editorial offices. Booker T discussed his World title reigns, his place in WCW history, and his potential showdown with Bill Goldberg.

Q: Thank you for visiting with us today, Booker. Let's start off by putting your WCW World title reigns into perspective. You won the title on July 9, and though you

"Being the champ isn't supposed to be easy. Some people think you can take a shortcut to the World title using baseball bats and lead pipes, but being the champion ain't worth nothin' if you don't act like a man."

lost it a few times, you're the champ four months later. That's a long time in the era of Monday night wrestling. How long do you reasonably expect to hold that belt?

A: That's right, Harry, four months is a long time these days. Four months is a long time when so many people are against you: Scott Steiner, Vince Russo,

Kevin Nash, Jeff Jarrett, you know the names. But that's what being the champion is all about. Being the champ isn't supposed to be easy. Some people think you can take a shortcut to the World title using baseball bats and lead pipes, but being the champion ain't worth nothin' if you don't act like a man.

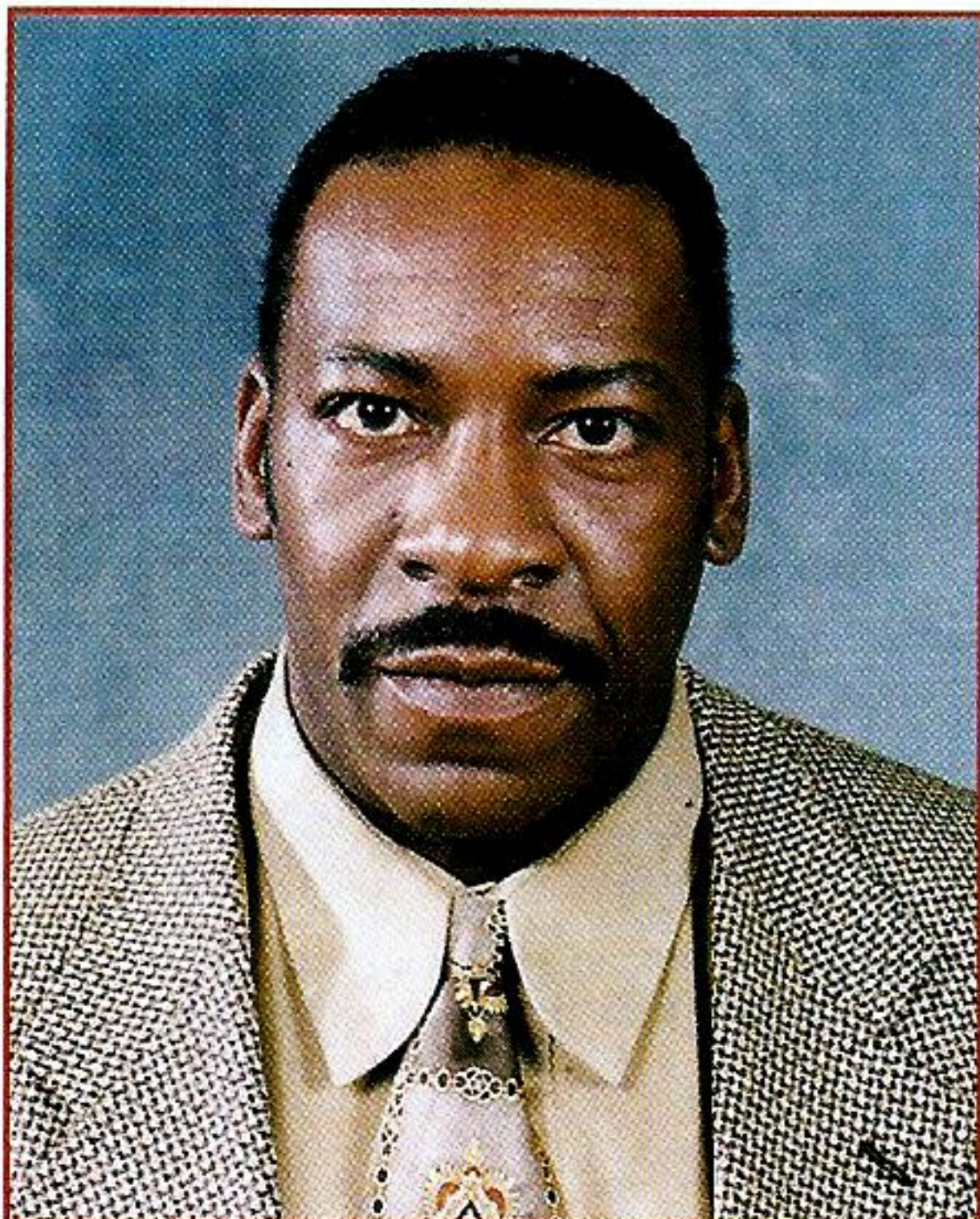
Q: That sounds very good, but the harsh reality is that breaking the rules can help you succeed in wrestling. Ric Flair, for example, used The Four Horsemen to bail him out of one situation after another during the '80s, yet he'll go down as one of the greatest champions ever.

A: Ric Flair will go down as one of the greatest champions ever, but not because The Four Horsemen kept bailing him out. Everybody knew Ric Flair had the talent. He could play by the rules if he wanted to. And sometimes he did. Here you mentioned Flair as one of the greatest champions ever, but in the same breath, you mentioned how the Horsemen used to bail him out. Ric Flair will always be remembered as a great champion, but he will still have that blotch on his record.

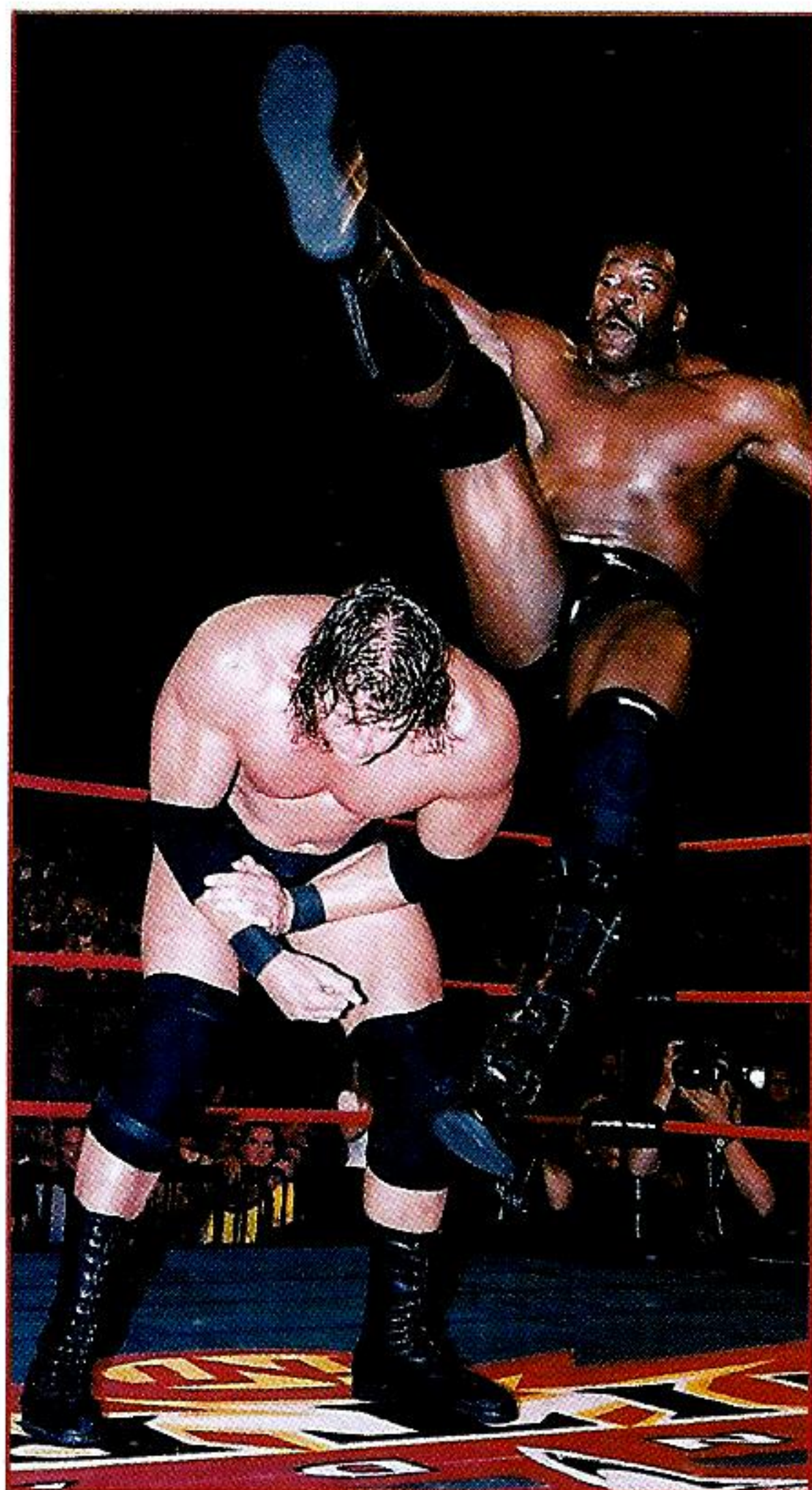
Q: Since you became champion, you've had to deal with basically

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"Goldberg calls himself 'Da Man.' Well, to paraphrase Flair, to be the man, you got to beat the man! Unfortunately for Goldberg, right now, I'm the man."



Booker T drops an ax kick across the back of former ECW World champ Mike Awesome. Let's face it: If Booker's good enough to beat Awesome, he's good enough to beat just about anybody.

the same three opponents: Steiner, Nash, and Jarrett. It's almost been a conspiracy. What's been the most difficult aspect of dealing with that crowd?

A: You want that straight up?

Q: Straight up.

A: The most difficult part of dealing with Steiner, Nash, and Jarrett is their enormous talent. Each of those guys bring somethin' to the table. Steiner has the largest arms in the world, and he can snuff you out with a side headlock. Nash has been a world champion many times in this business, and if you combine Nash's physical tools with that sneaky mind—that sucka is always strategizin'—well, you got a tough combination to beat. Then you've got Jarrett. I've got to give him credit. He gave me a helluva match at Bash at the Beach and a few other times. He's smaller than me, but he's forgot more about this business than most guys ever knew in the first place.

Q: Even by your admission, these are some really intimidating wrestlers. If they're so good, how come you're still the champion?

A: (Laughs) Because I'm that much better. I mentioned how Steiner, Nash, and Jarrett each bring somethin' to the table. That's true. But Booker T is the real deal, you know what I'm sayin'? I got the strength and power, I've got the experience, and I've got the intelligence to outsmart those other guys. Plus, I have aerial ability. I can pin you down with a test of strength, do a spinnerooni as that joker Mark Madden calls it, hit an ax kick, and leave you layin' on your back. Somebody from your magazine a few years ago called me the prototype of the future wrestler. Me sittin' here right now as the World champion proves it's true. No offense to Lex Luger, but you've got to be the total package to be on top in this business.

Q: The prototype of the future. I remember that quote. But there's another man who has been associated with that same tag. I'm talking about Bill Goldberg. There is no doubt he wants to be World champion again, and it's only a matter of time before he comes after you. Maybe he's waiting to see how this scenario between you and Steiner plays out. For quite some time, people have been clamoring for a big Booker T-Goldberg showdown on pay-per-view.

A: I hope it happens. You're right. Once Steiner is out of the way, Goldberg will probably be the top contender. If you remember, the only reason Steiner's the top contender now is because he supposedly beat Goldberg at Fall Brawl. Steiner couldn't get the job done against me at Halloween Havoc. So it makes sense Goldberg would be next. Nash and Jarrett have had their chances. I beat Nash just the other night. But it's up to a lot of people. Flair will have something to do with it, and so will the Executive Committee. If you're askin' Booker T, yeah, I want it. The question is does Goldberg really want it? I'm not sayin' he's scared, because I don't think he is, but does he really want to put it all on the line against Booker T? Goldberg calls himself "Da Man." Well, to paraphrase Flair, to be the man, you got to beat the man! Unfortunately for Goldberg, right now, I'm the man. As far as I'm concerned, Goldberg isn't the future of WCW—I am!

Q: You've had a tumultuous relationship with your brother, Stevie Ray. Right now, he's your biggest supporter. But I'll tell you, if I had a brother who hit me with a slapjack, I don't know if I'd trust him again.

A: Stevie and I have had our ups and downs. A lot of strange things happen in this business because everything's so competitive. Stevie used to be un-



Can you believe that Booker T has more title reigns in WCW than Sting, WCW's franchise? It's true. Maybe now that Booker is a three-time WCW World champ, he'll be accorded an equal amount of respect as the "Stinger."

der the influence of Hulk Hogan, Eric Bischoff, and people like that with the NWO black and white. He listened to the wrong people and thought I was dissin' him. I had a tough time convincing Stevie that wasn't the case.

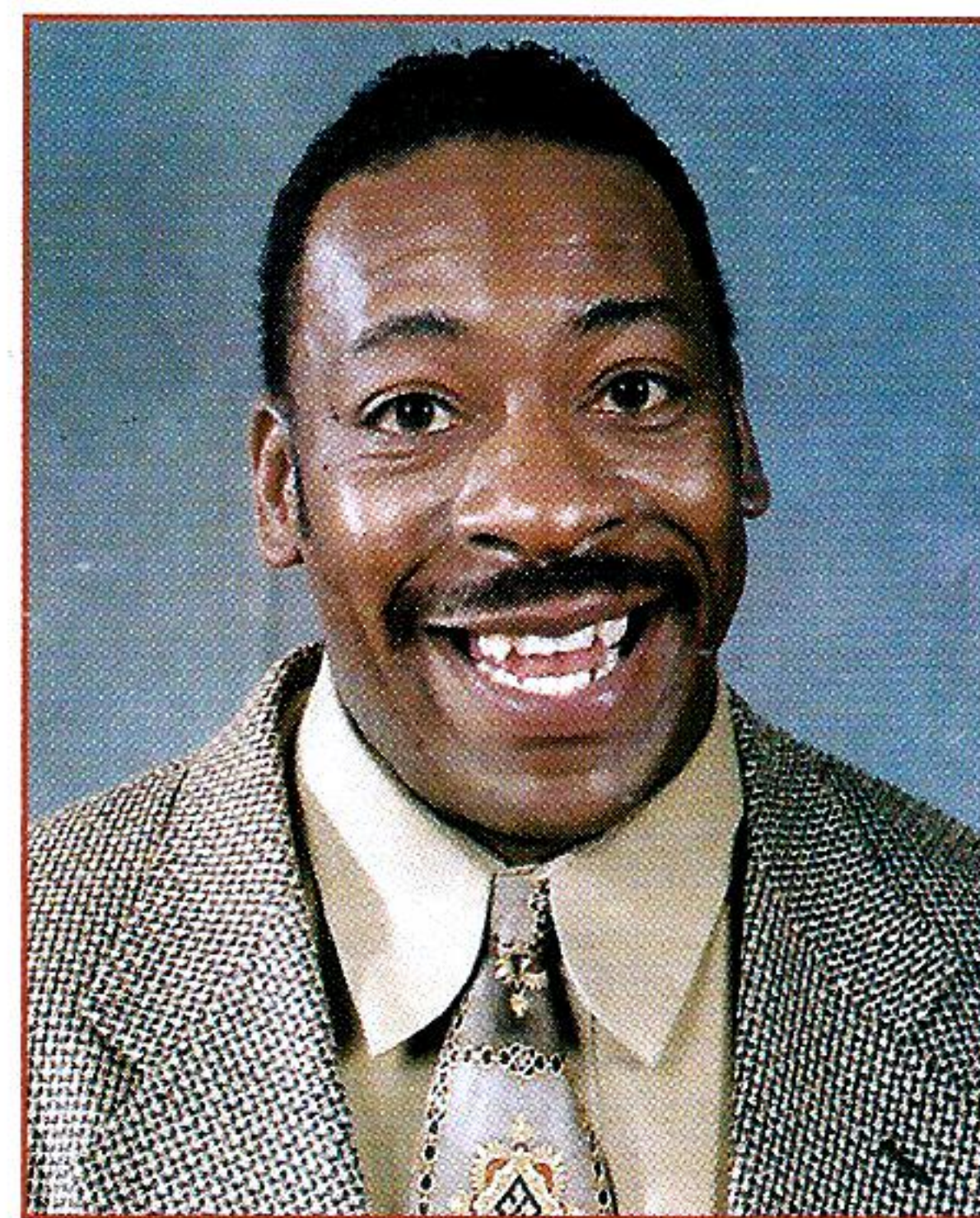
Q: *Wasn't it just a case of outright jealousy?*

A: I don't think so. Stevie has always pushed me to do better, to improve my game. That's not because I have more talent or I'm the better wrestler; it's only because he's my big brother and he cares about me. We had a lot of miscommunication going on. Stevie thought I was

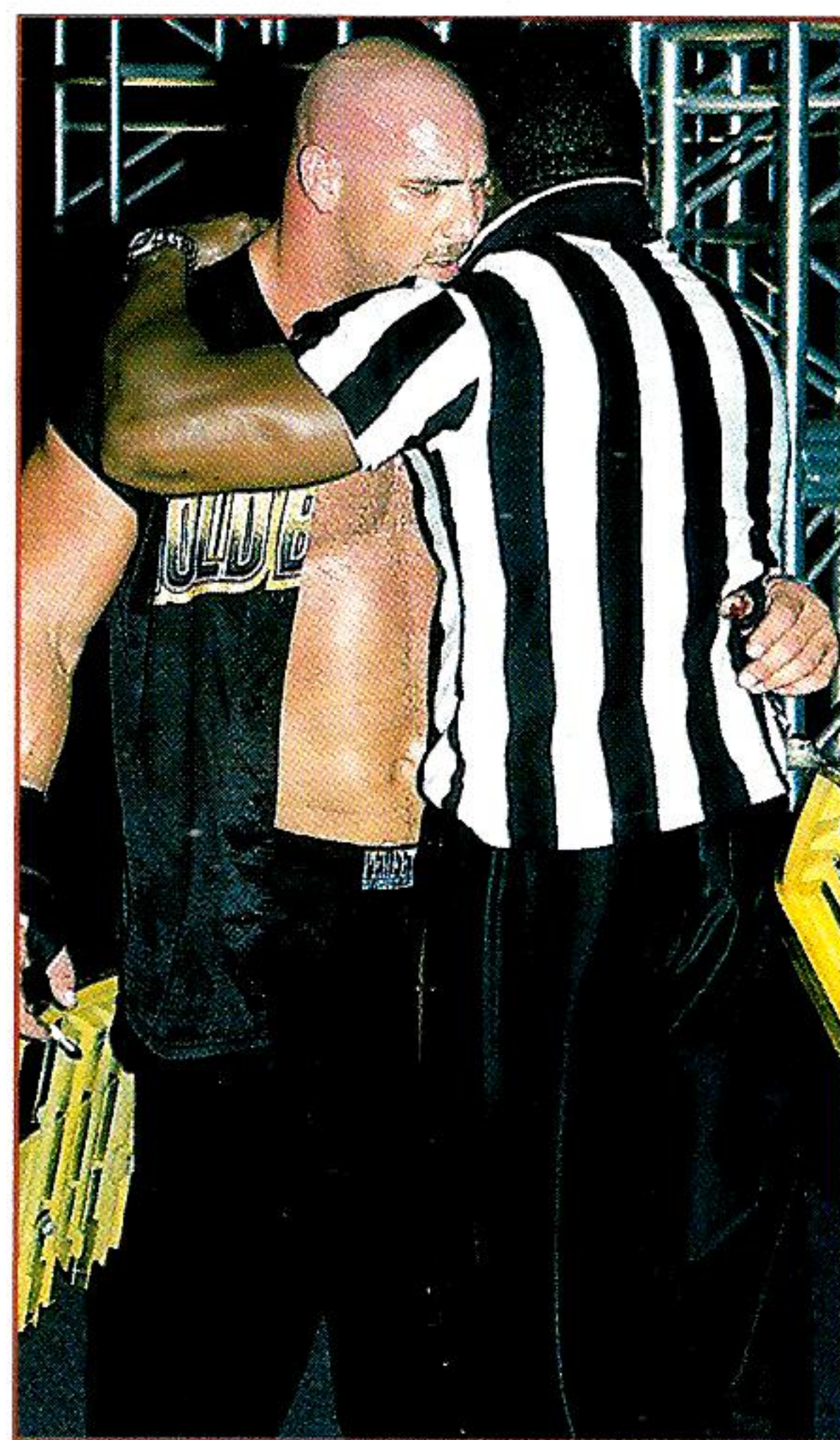
throwin' Harlem Heat away and throwin' him away. That wasn't true. I was just movin' on. I proved all I had to prove as a tag team wrestler. He didn't understand I still needed him, maybe not as a partner, but as a brother and somebody who knows this business. Stevie knows that now, and I'm proud to say he's my biggest fan.

Q: *Well, Booker, I think that's all I have for you. Thanks for your time, and good luck as champion.*

A: Thank you very much. And there's something I want all my fans to know: Booker T is here to stay. I'm not gonna disappoint anybody. □



"Stevie thought I was throwin' Harlem Heat away and throwin' him away ... He didn't understand I still needed him, maybe not as a partner, but as a brother and somebody who knows this business."



Bill Goldberg and Booker might be hugging here, but their alliance won't necessarily last—especially if one or the other holds the WCW World title. If Booker's the champ, Goldberg wants the belt, and vice versa.



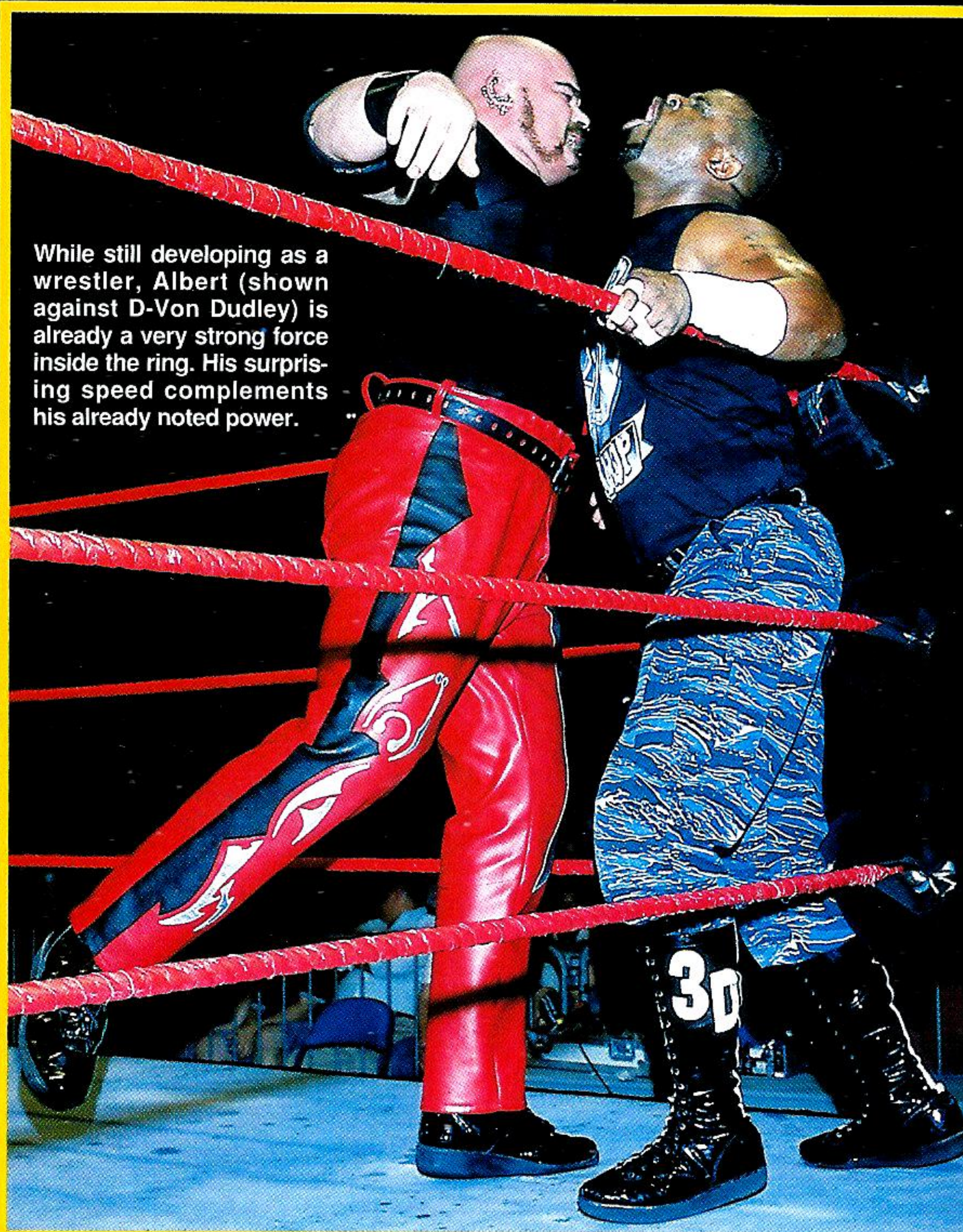
TRISH STRATUS:

**“THE WWF
NEEDS MORE
T&A!”**



Trish Stratus has provided the fans of the WWF with a ton of T & A in recent months (opposite page, left). Unfortunately for Stratus, the fans appreciate her physical T & A more than her T & A tag team, Test and Albert (above).

When Trish Stratus demands more T & A, she isn't talking about more air time for herself in revealing getups. Honestly, she wants more exposure for her men, Test and Albert



While still developing as a wrestler, Albert (shown against D-Von Dudley) is already a very strong force inside the ring. His surprising speed complements his already noted power.

By Harry Burkett

BEFORE TRISH STRATUS called the offices of *INSIDE WRESTLING*, members of the staff thought they had her sized up. And that isn't a reference to Will Welsh posting Trish's measurements on his bulletin board. It's a reference to Trish's mental capacity, her ambition, and her ability to guide the careers of others.

Stratus is reminiscent of many female wrestling celebrities. The hourglass figure, the saucy attitude, and the pouty look add to her appeal, but they take away from her credibility as a manager. Capt. Lou Albano, Fred Blassie, and The Grand Wizard were determined to mold wrestlers into champions. Most female managers—with the excep-

tion of Elizabeth—have been more interested in promoting themselves at the expense of their stables.

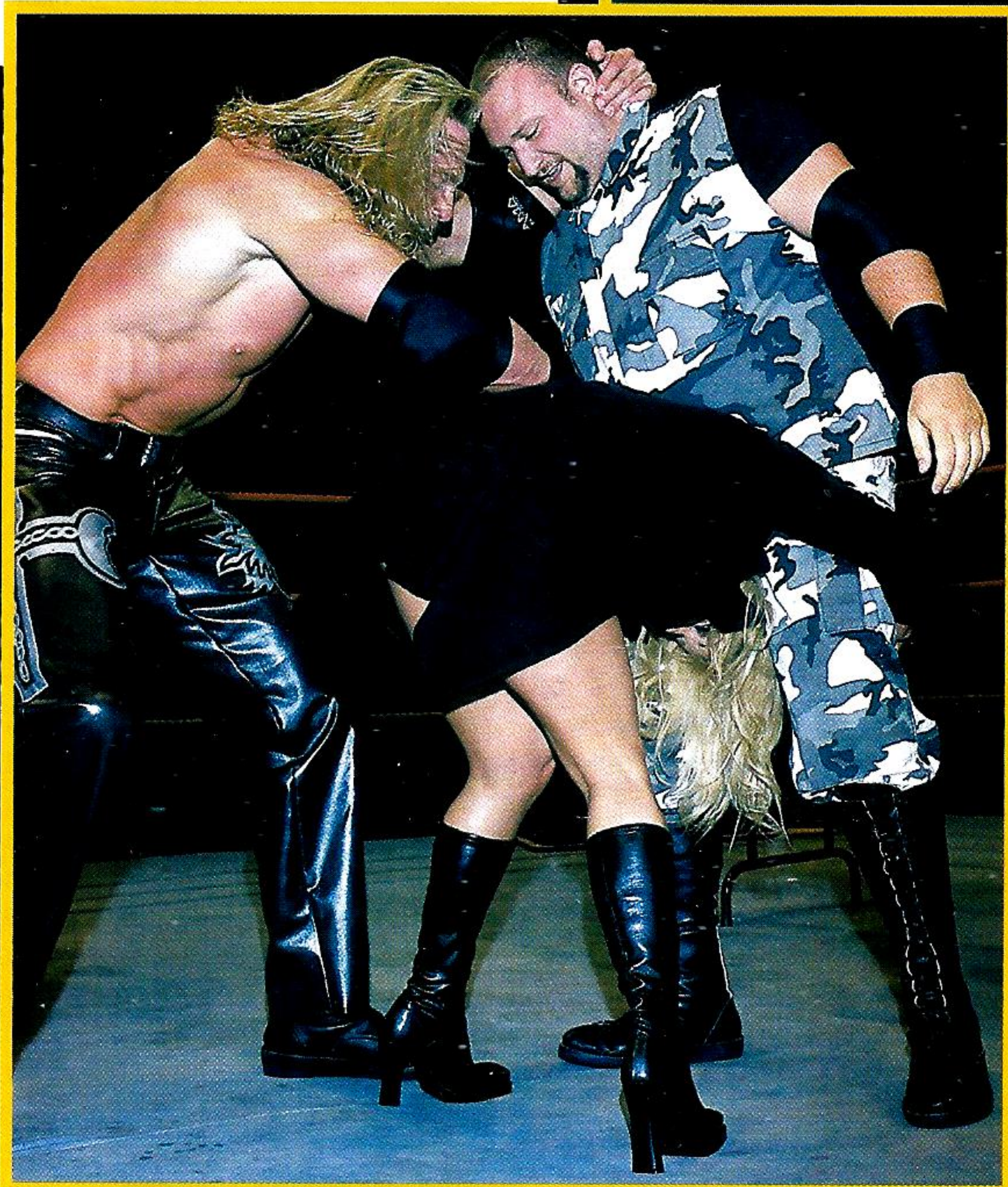
During a recent conference call, it became obvious that Stratus was on a mission. Instead of talking about herself, she was doing her job as a manager, hyping the accomplishments of her men, Test and Albert.

"I can't believe this," she stated. "I see here that you guys have Test and Albert ranked number six in the tag team ratings, as the number-two contenders to the WWF tag team title. How many more people do Test and Albert have to destroy in order to move ahead? They've proven they can kick The Acolytes' butts, whether it's in the ring or in a streetfight. They've taken over their office, for goodness sake. Bradshaw and Faarooq. Two beer-swilling red-

necks. I wish you guys would give T & A half as much coverage as you do The Acolytes."

Here's the official response: Trish is wasting her time lobbying for a higher ratings spot for T & A. The staff of *INSIDE WRESTLING* will not take T & A seriously until the WWF does. The team is clearly relegated to the federation's mid-card. Test and Alberts are rarely involved in storylines with Kurt Angle, The Rock, Steve Austin, Triple-H, or any other top tier star. If they find themselves in the same ring, their impact is usually minimal and they have yet to earn big wins over big names.

Test and Albert are also viewed as a notch below The Hardy Boyz, Too Cool, Christian and Edge, The Dudley Boyz, and now even Bull Buchanan and The Goodfather. Their greatest victories have come at the expense of The Acolytes, a team no longer considered a major part of the championship mix. It's up

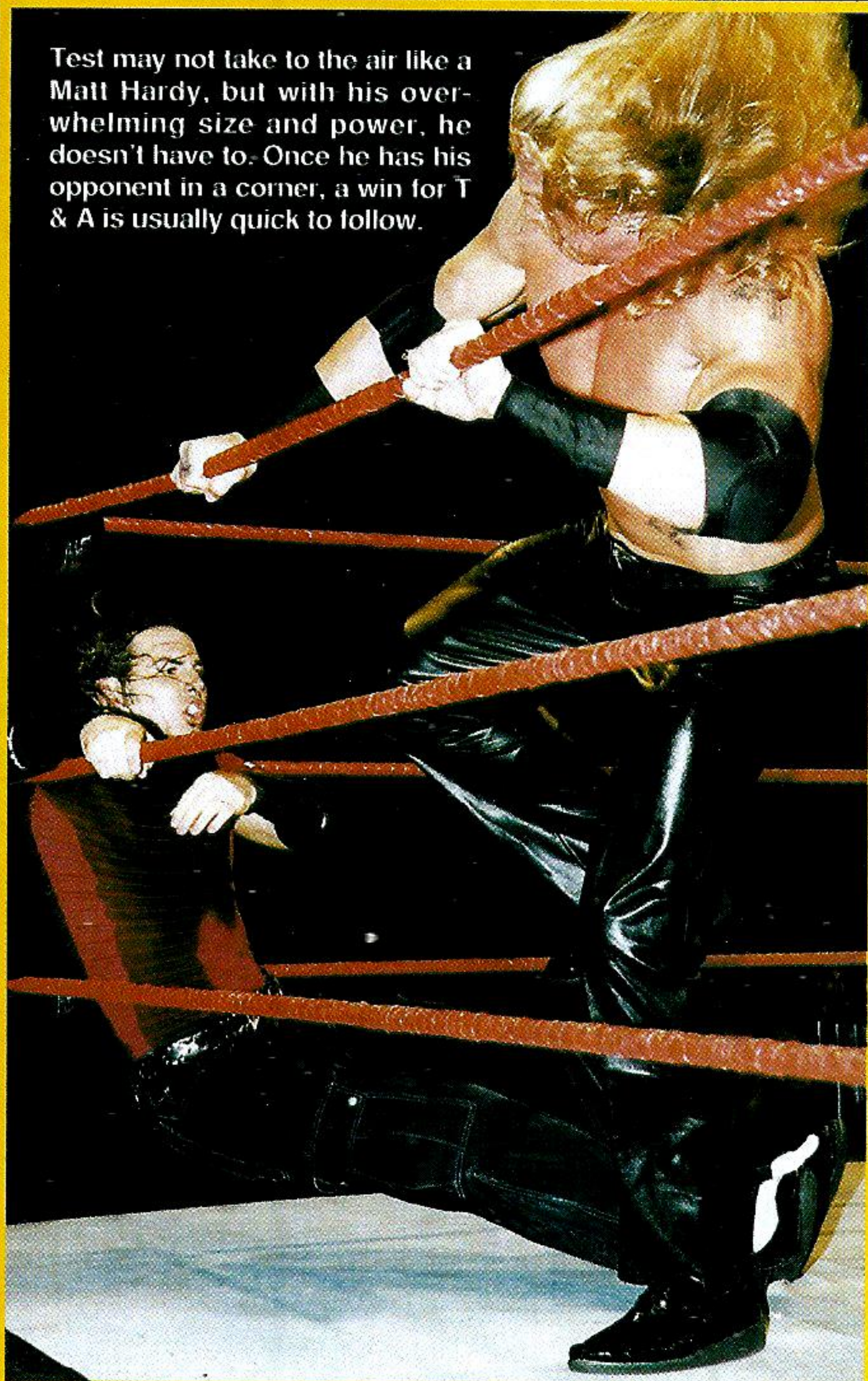


Not exactly known for her wrestling abilities, Stratus manages to hold her own when in the ring. Sure, T & A might have to save her every once in a while (left), but she is usually quite safe at ringside (above).

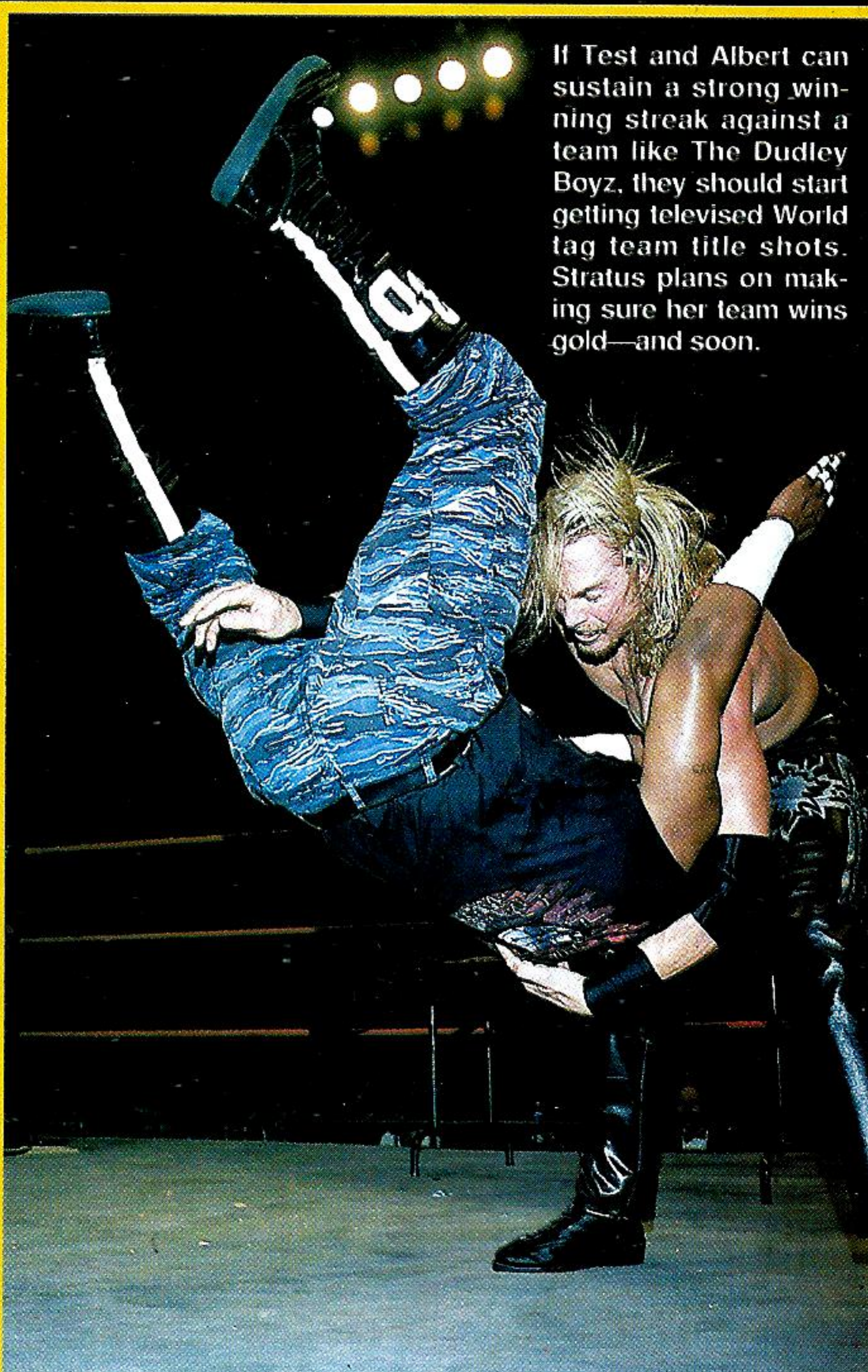
to Stratus, Test, and Albert to break the barrier, no one else.

"Duh! We broke that barrier a long time ago," retorted Trish. "We've earned shots at the WWF tag team titles at house shows all over the place, but the WWF doesn't see fit to give us title matches on TV. The Hardys, Christian and Edge—it doesn't matter who the champions are. They don't hesitate to run scared from us on house shows and keep the belts by some crooked means. The Hardys, especially, couldn't get away with that on TV. And what good is it if we win the

Test may not take to the air like a Matt Hardy, but with his overwhelming size and power, he doesn't have to. Once he has his opponent in a corner, a win for T & A is usually quick to follow.



If Test and Albert can sustain a strong winning streak against a team like The Dudley Boyz, they should start getting televised World tag team title shots. Stratus plans on making sure her team wins gold—and soon.



belts at a house show? Who would see it? We need prime-time opportunities on *Raw*, *Smackdown*, and pay-per-views."

Stratus does make a valid point. Test and Albert have received a few title shots on the house show circuit, but when it comes to high-profile exposure, they haven't gotten much. At press time, they were fighting with Crash to gain control over the APA's abandoned office space. Sure, they appear on almost every WWF broadcast, but they still haven't received a major push as a team. In fact, Trish's T & A get more attention than the real T & A.

Stratus is willing to do anything for her team. Consider the poker game between Test and Albert and The Acolytes. Test and Albert lost all their money and persuaded Bradshaw and Faarooq to turn it into a game of strip poker involving

Stratus. As she was forced to remove some of her last strands of clothing, T & A jumped The Acolytes, proving it was a ruse all along. Stratus had sacrificed her body for her men.

The following week, Stratus wrestled WWF women's champion Lita in a bra and panties match. Stratus hasn't had much training as a wrestler, so why did she agree to a match?

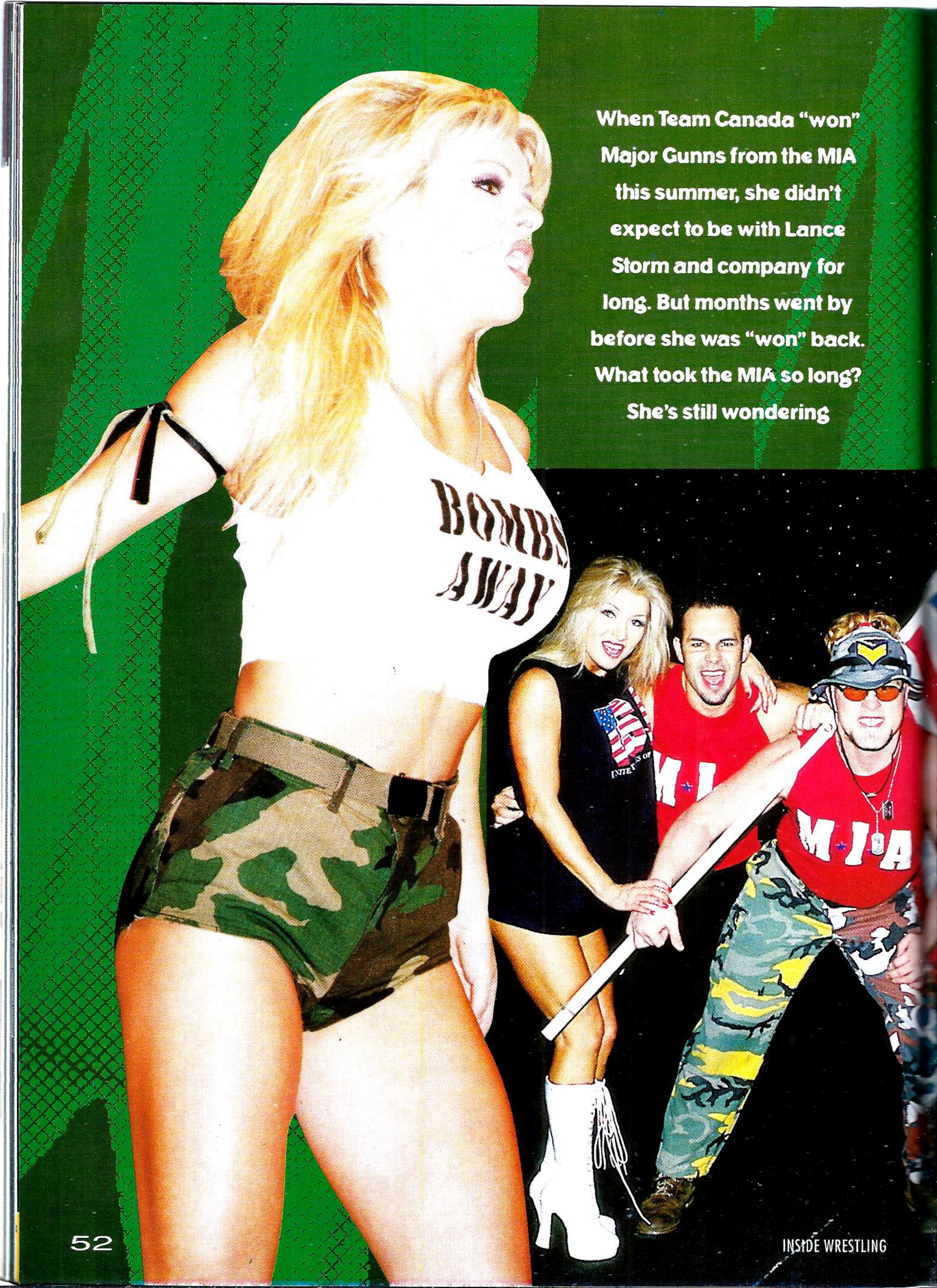
"I'm sick of that trashy bimbo acting like a Hardy sister or something," said Stratus. "I don't want her interfering in the Hardys' matches with T & A anymore. I want her to know that I'll be in her face as soon as she comes down to ringside. In that bra and panties match, I wanted to prove who the real woman was."

The almost-bare Trish may have proven who the real woman was, but Lita proved to be the tougher wres-

tlar. Although Stratus realizes Lita is the superior athlete, she's willing to expend some energy—and a lot of sweat—on behalf of Test and Albert. In fact, if it weren't for Stratus, Test and Albert might not get any attention at all.

"If my body gets Test and Albert some attention, then I've done my part," explained Stratus. "Test and Albert's talent will keep them on top once they get there. People have to get rid of this mindset that the Hardys and Christian and Edge are the WWF's top tag teams. Those little Hardy Boyz? *Please*, people! How about some real men for a change? The WWF needs more T & A!"

Test and Albert are lucky men. Not only do they get to hang around the voluptuous Ms. Stratus, but they also benefit from having such a strong advocate. Without Trish, there would be no T & A—except her own. □



When Team Canada "won" Major Gunns from the MIA this summer, she didn't expect to be with Lance Storm and company for long. But months went by before she was "won" back. What took the MIA so long? She's still wondering

MAJOR GUNNS' MAJOR DISTRESS

"Everybody Wants Me To Be Their Property"

Major Gunns may look carefree and happy when she's in the ring these days (opposite page, left), but all is not quite perfect with her and the Misfits In Action (below). They still seem to have some issues to work out over her forced stint with Team Canada.



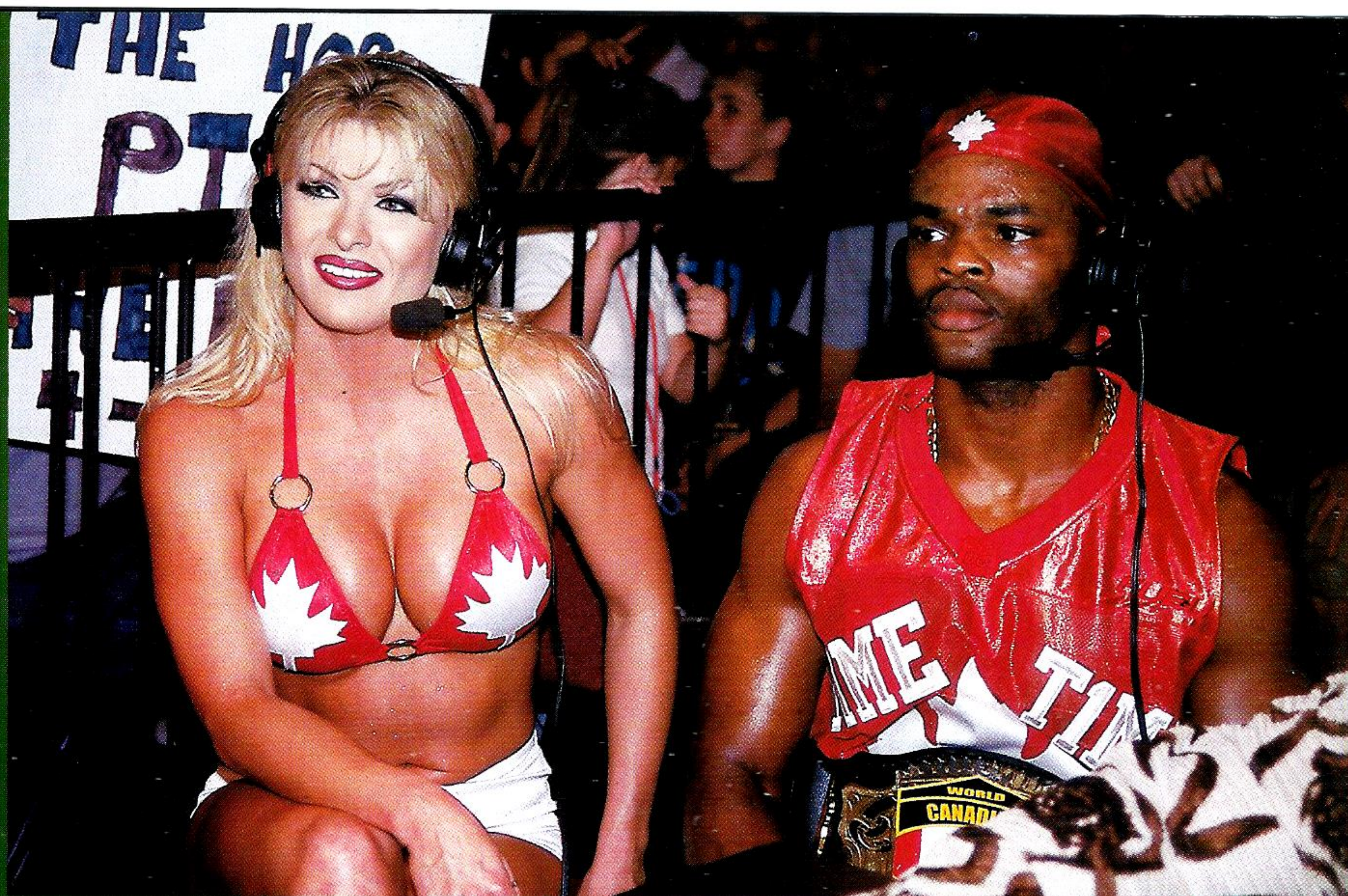
By Jeff Moeller

SHE IS NOT a wrestling headliner—not even close, actually. She is barely even a wrestler, yet her popularity and fan base continue to grow in the big business of sports entertainment, an industry cluttered—not that many men mind—with one good-looking, leggy, 34-24-35 blonde after another.

Yet for all the attention she has received from the fans, some feel that Major Gunns—who since debuting in WCW last year has turned more heads than Mike Awesome has put people through tables—has been little more than a pawn. It's hard to refute that theory, as not long after Lance Storm invaded WCW and targeted the Gen. Rection-led Misfits In Action, she started to go through some very trying times.

Not everybody within the WCW community necessarily feels for Gunns, though. While it wasn't her fault that she was "lost" by MIA to Team Canada as a result of Storm's victory over Rection on national television, not too many people came to her defense. As one story goes, she harshly criticized Rection and his troops prior to the start of that match while demanding to know why she was at stake or, in her own words, "the prize."

But, yes, that was Gunns celebrating after being reunited, finally, with Rection, Cpl. Cajun, Lt. Loco, and Sgt. A-Wall after a



We're certainly not going to say that Gunns' facial expression here suggests she *enjoyed* being part of Team Canada. Maybe, though, she should dissociate herself from all WCW factions for a little while.



Gunns has to be happy that she no longer has Jim Duggan and the rest of Team Canada telling her what she can and can't do and what she can and can't wear.

grueling series of battles with Storm's Team Canada, so it appears all is well with the Misfits today.

Unfortunately, that might be overstating things a bit.

Sources tell INSIDE WRESTLING that there is still some

lingering resentment on Gunns' part over what she perceived to be a lack of effort by Rection to get her out of Team Canada immediately. In turn, Rection reportedly accused Gunns of placing a little too much emphasis on how miserable she was and trying to make the war between the two factions as much about her as it was about national pride and the prestigious WCW U.S. title.

When pressed, Gunns even admitted there were problems, though she tried to downplay them.

"Gen. Rection winning that U.S. title was really, really awesome," she said the day after Halloween Havoc. "I wanted to be the first one to give him a hug, because he deserved that, and now we're all back together. I just hope this is pretty much over now. Everybody wants me to be their property. I expected that from Lance Storm and all, but sometimes even the guys in MIA forgot that I'm a person, not a prize. I want everybody to remember that from here on."

One WCW veteran told INSIDE WRESTLING he picked up on some tension between Gunns and the rest of MIA months ago.

"Did you notice MIA's effort, or lack of effort really, to get her back?" asked one WCW veteran. "At first, I thought getting her back was their top priority. Then it began to look like it was a lot less of a focus, and that was fairly obvious to everyone in the back. I mean, even though she



Lt. Loco and the other Misfits In Action appear to be genuinely happy to have Gunns back on their team. No one will offer a really good answer as to why it took them so long to get her back, however.



Gunns looks good now in MIA gear and looked just as fine while wearing Canadian colors and attacking Paisley. Why would anyone want to get on this woman's bad side anyway?

has been with WCW for a while, you have to wonder whether she can be trusted or whether she's a true team player. I think a lot of people—MIA included—need to ask themselves those tough questions."

Interesting, especially because this is not the first time Gunns has been alienated in WCW.

She broke into WCW as one of the NWO girls, though her run was relatively short, as that faction's much-hyped reformation fizzled about as quickly as a Steve Blackman promo. However, in that limited role, Tylene Buck did enough to impress Vince Russo and other top WCW execs. Soon, "Major Gunns" was born, and ever since, she has definitely been *da bomb* with wrestling fans.

She insists she appreciates all the cheers she gets, all the attention those at ringside pay to her whenever she's seconding a member of MIA.

"The support we've gotten has been great, especially since we won the U.S. belt," she said. "And like I said, I am behind Gen. Rection and the other guys regardless of the rumors. They have been so supportive of my career

and have been willing to give me the spotlight. I really just wish this whole Lance Storm-Canadian experience was behind me."

That "Lance Storm-Canadian experience," as she put it, has definitely put Gunns to the test, both physically and mentally. It has even challenged her patriotism, with Storm going as far as trying to force her to publicly renounce her loyalty to the United States.

Perhaps by continuing to work at the WCW Power Plant to improve upon her mat skills, Gunns can prove to her naysayers that she's in wrestling—and with MIA—for the long run. With just a little sticktoitiveness, Gunns might be able to eliminate the remaining bitterness and mistrust.

"I always made an effort to be happy," she said, "even after Lance Storm and those guys basically kidnapped me. I didn't want to sit around and be miserable all the time. I knew it would work out in the end. I kept helping these guys even though I was supposed to do whatever Team Canada told me to do. It just took so long for me to get back to where I think I belong. No person should be put up for grabs in a match."

Let's hope the other members of the MIA believe that now, too. □

one on one

The telephone wires sizzle each month, as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. Here's the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to feel the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off ... One On One

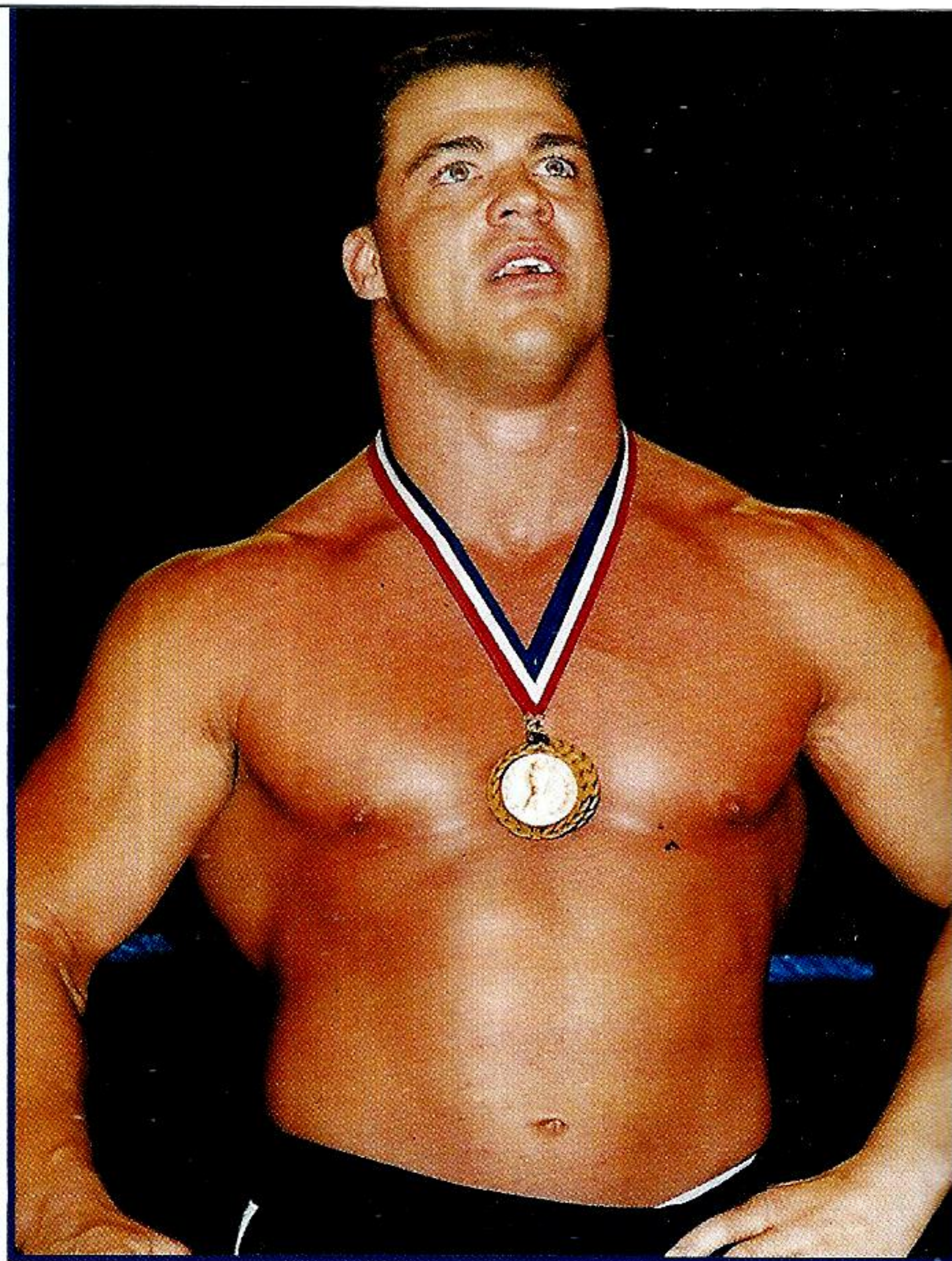
WEBSTER'S DEFINES TENSION as the state of being stretched, or mental or emotional strain. With respect to the venerable dictionary folks, we at *INSIDE WRESTLING* offer a more detailed definition.

Tension is going to arenas across the country wanting nothing more than to regain your WWF World title, while your wife is serving as the business partner of the current World champion. Oh yeah, that current World champion is also your arch-enemy, the man you hate more than anyone or anything, and everyone except for your wife is able to see that he wants nothing more than to steal her away from you. Some other terms come to mind, notably "conflict of interest," "payback," and "explosive."

That's the Triple-H/Kurt Angle/Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley situation in a nutshell. In a series of vignettes seemingly lifted directly from *Days Of Our Lives* or some other soap opera, WWF Commissioner Mick Foley joyfully replayed the infamous kiss Kurt laid on Triple-H's wife back in September.

Both Steph and Kurt have tried to explain it away, but Triple-H had clearly seen enough. But what could he do? How could he tell his wife (a McMahon no less!) that she was forbidden from managing another wrestler? Wrestling has always been a big part of Stephanie's blood, and Hunter knew that from the beginning of their relationship. So as Hunter tries to give his wife her space, he must sit idly by and let a man he despises get closer and closer to her.

But that doesn't mean he has to like it, and it certainly doesn't mean he has to like Angle. That's why Triple-H demanded to confront the Olympic hero here ... "One On One."



**"Maybe you can just chain Steph up in the kitchen and keep her isolated from the outside world. Maybe then you'll be able to put your paranoid delusions to rest."
—Kurt Angle**

KURT ANGLE: What do you possibly have to say to me today, Hunter? Just the other night in Boston (the October 30 edition of *Raw*), you managed to connive your way into a match against me, even though I had the night off. Then you took advantage of the fact that I wasn't prepared to compete and pedigreed me through a table and assaulted me with a chair. I don't think there's anything left to be said, because I'm not happy.

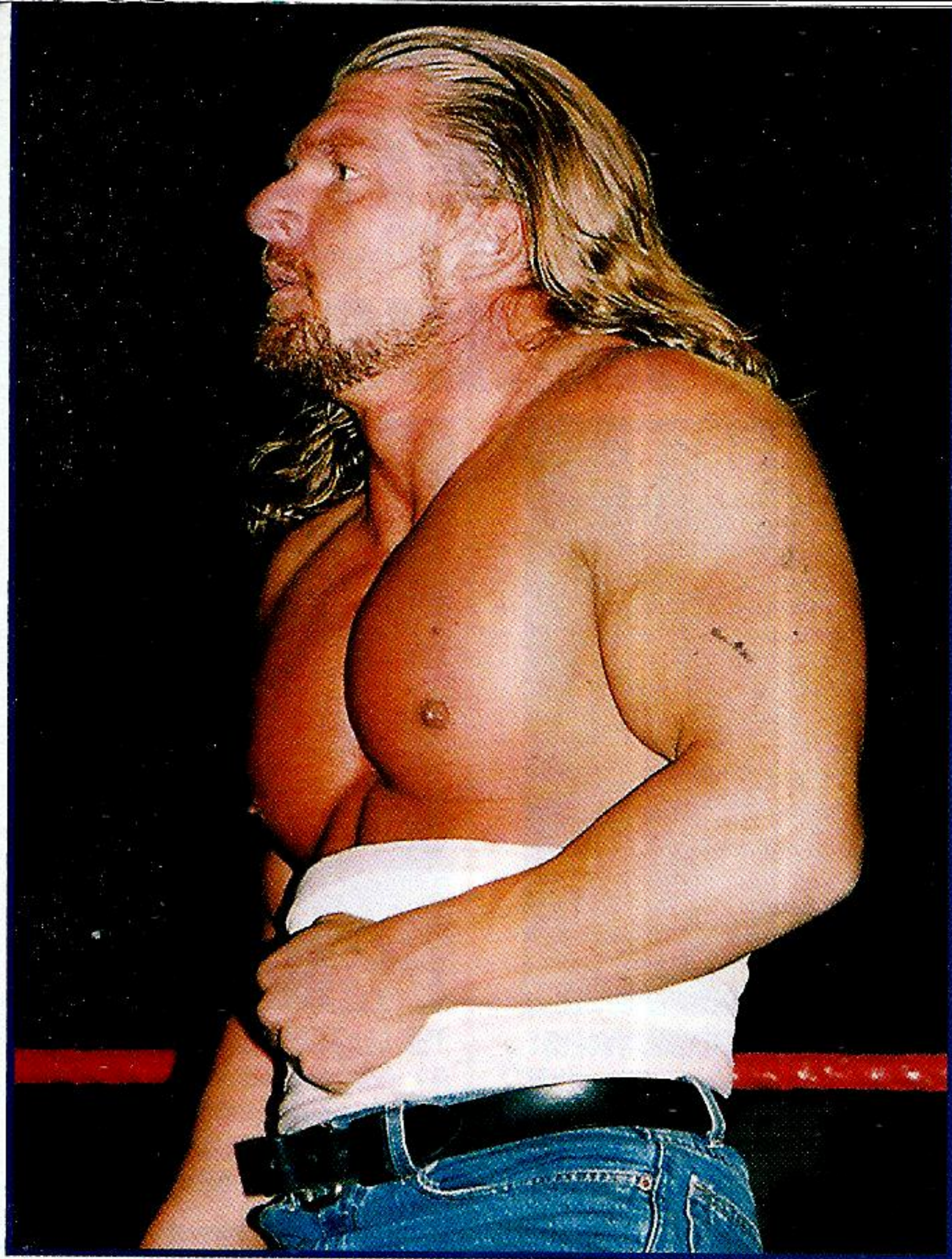
TRIPLE-H: You couldn't be more wrong, Kurt. You see, there's a lot you and I have to talk about, and here we can have a nice little chat, man-to- ... well, whatever the hell you are.

KA: You want to talk? Then say something.

HHH: What I'm saying right now involves you and me, not Stephanie, understand? I can certainly understand why you'd want to be around my wife. She's certainly the most beautiful woman who's ever bothered to give you the time of day. Steph says what the two of you have is purely a business partnership ...

KA: And that, Hunter, is true.

HHH: Of course it's true, because no woman—especially not one as classy as my wife—would ever leave me for a whiny piece of Olympic garbage like you. See, it's



**"I know how easy it is to be 'the other man.'
You tell her what she wants to hear.
Whenever she and I have a disagreement,
you're always there with
a shoulder for her to cry on."
—Triple-H**

not Stephanie I'm concerned about. My wife is a very trusting woman. She takes people at their word. Somehow you've managed to exploit that particular—call it a character flaw or call it a sense of honor and respect. You've been able to convince her you have nothing but the most noble intentions. You and I both know that's a bunch of bull.

KA: Hey, Hunter, I've taken about enough of this. Believe whatever the heck you want. It's not my fault you're insecure in your manhood. Steph is a bright and beautiful woman, but I guess she is a little too trusting. After all, she's still wasting her time with a shady character like you. But that's her choice, and I'm man enough to respect it. Maybe you can just chain Steph up in the kitchen and keep her isolated from the outside world. Maybe then you'll be able to put your paranoid delusions to rest.

HHH: Paranoid?! You kissed her, jackass!

KA: And what's a kiss? I was concerned for her well-being, which is obviously more than you can say. And if your wife says it was nothing, isn't that enough? What are you trying to prove by hitting me, an Olympic gold medalist, with chairs?

HHH: What I proved in Boston was the same thing I've proved over and over. I own your ass, and I can put an end to you at any time.

KA: Yet, I, your Olympic hero, am still the WWF champion. And your wife still chooses to spend most of her time on the road with me—of course, that's merely for professional purposes, as we all know. And for a guy casting aspersions on my manhood, you're pretty quick to claim ownership of my ass.

HHH: You're a real funny jackass, Angle. But just answer me this. What exactly is the *business relationship* you have with my wife? Is she your manager? Because I don't think she's getting 20 percent of your pay. And what exactly does she do that you find it so necessary to have her at ringside?

KA: Oh, I'm paying Stephanie a sizable fee—the amount is none of your business, of course. I just assumed she trusted you enough to share her financial information with you. I had no idea she wouldn't. You probably don't even know about all of her family holdings and her stock portfolio, either.

HHH: Answer the damn question! What service does Stephanie provide? Does she handle your finances, schedule your matches, handle travel arrangements, what?

KA: Is it so hard to believe that your wife has a brain, Hunter? Your wife has made it possible for me to become the WWF champion. Without her, I don't know where I'd be. I mean, I would still have these gold medals around my neck, of course. But to get back to your question, it's just not my fault she never shared her skills with you, although, before this, I would have thought otherwise. I can't see any other way a hot-headed thug like you could ever have held this belt.

HHH: Let me draw the line right here, Angle. You're pushing all the right buttons with Steph, but she's not stupid.

KA: I never said she was. It seemed to me that was what you were implying.

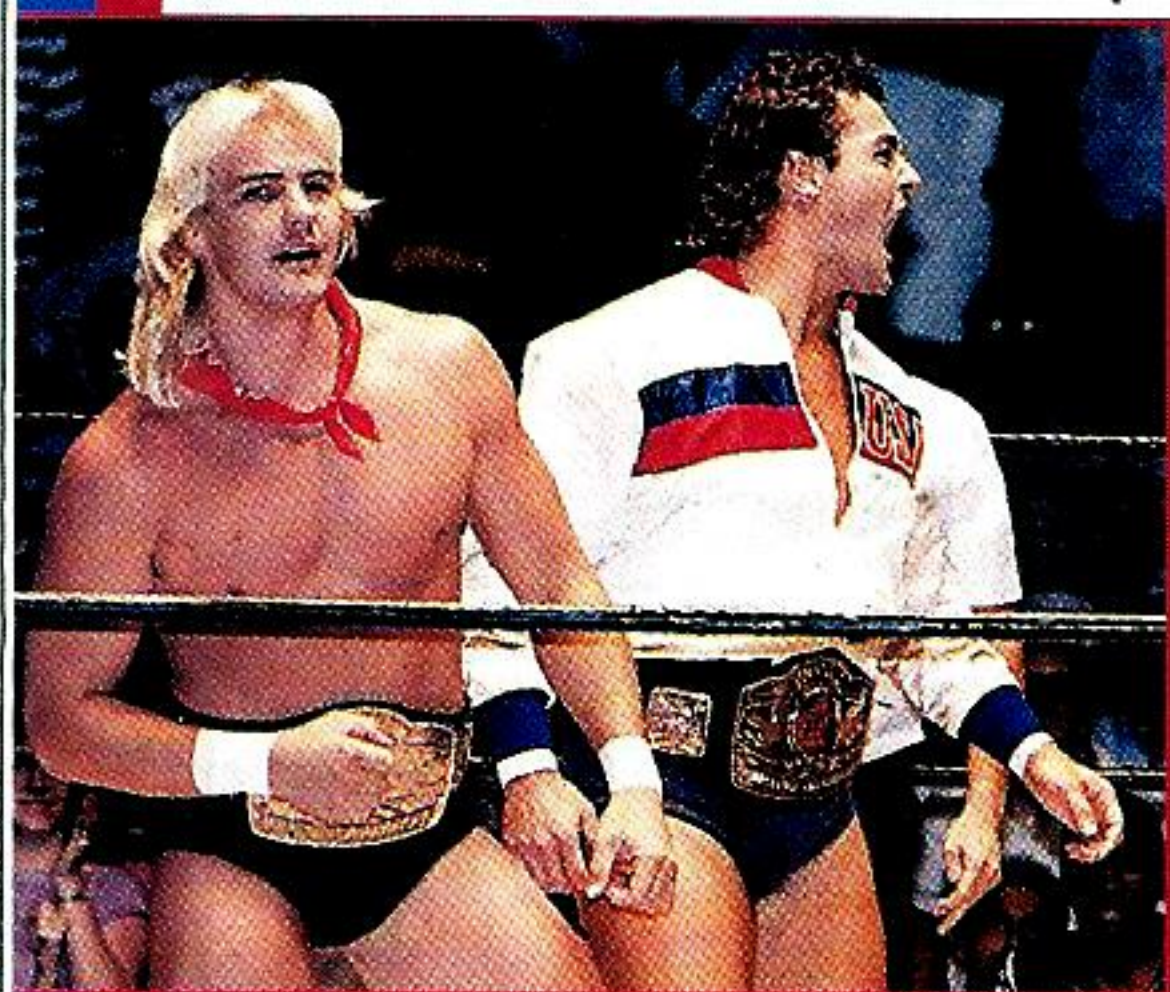
HHH: See, I know how easy it is to be "the other man." You tell her what she wants to hear. Whenever she and I have a disagreement, you're always there with a shoulder for her to cry on. What I did to you in Boston was nothing. Kurt, I want you to listen close. If you even think of putting the moves on my wife—that means no hugs, no "meaningless" kisses, none of those doe-eyed "yes, dear" stupid faces you make—I will hurt you worse than I've hurt you up to this point. I will retire you. I will embarrass you. I will cripple you. The ball is in your court.

KA: I'm sure Steph would love to see her husband attempt to enforce her fidelity by threatening to cripple her best friend.

HHH: *Best friend?*

KA: Oh, you know it's true, Hunter. I'm the WWF champion, and I'm not about to change my winning formula one bit. I'm not afraid of you. And neither is Steph. I'm afraid I have to let you go. Steph and I have an appointment. I'm sure she's told you about it. I'll see you soon enough—I'll just see your wife a little sooner. □

TIMELINE



January 21: Barry Windham and Mike Rotundo both strike gold in the WWF for the first time as they beat Adrian Adonis and Dick Murdoch for the World tag team title in Hartford, Connecticut.

February 18: The WWF's "War To Settle The Score" airs live from Madison Square Garden on MTV. WWF World champ Hulk Hogan defeats Roddy Piper by disqualification after Mr. T and Cyndi Lauper interfere.

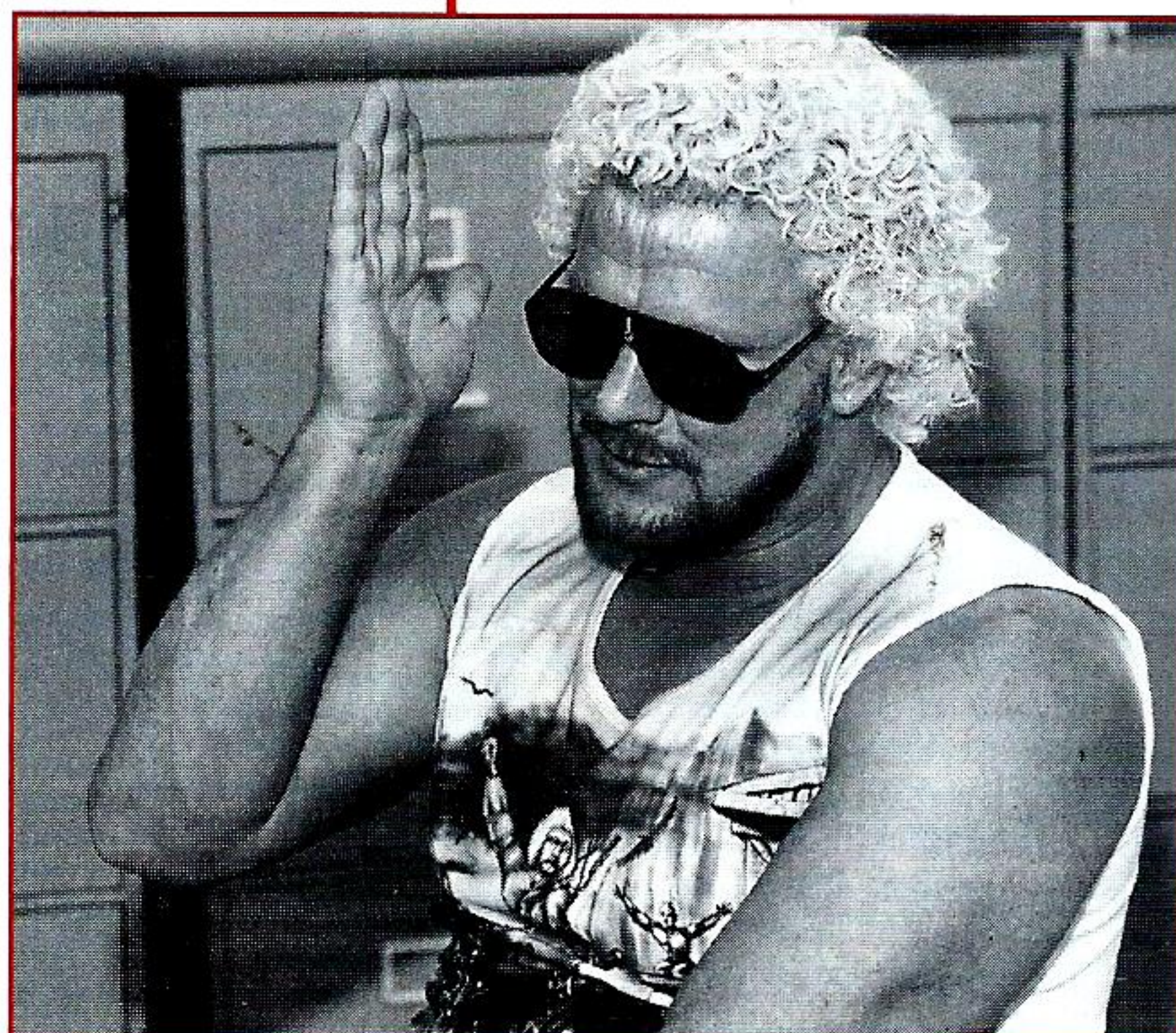
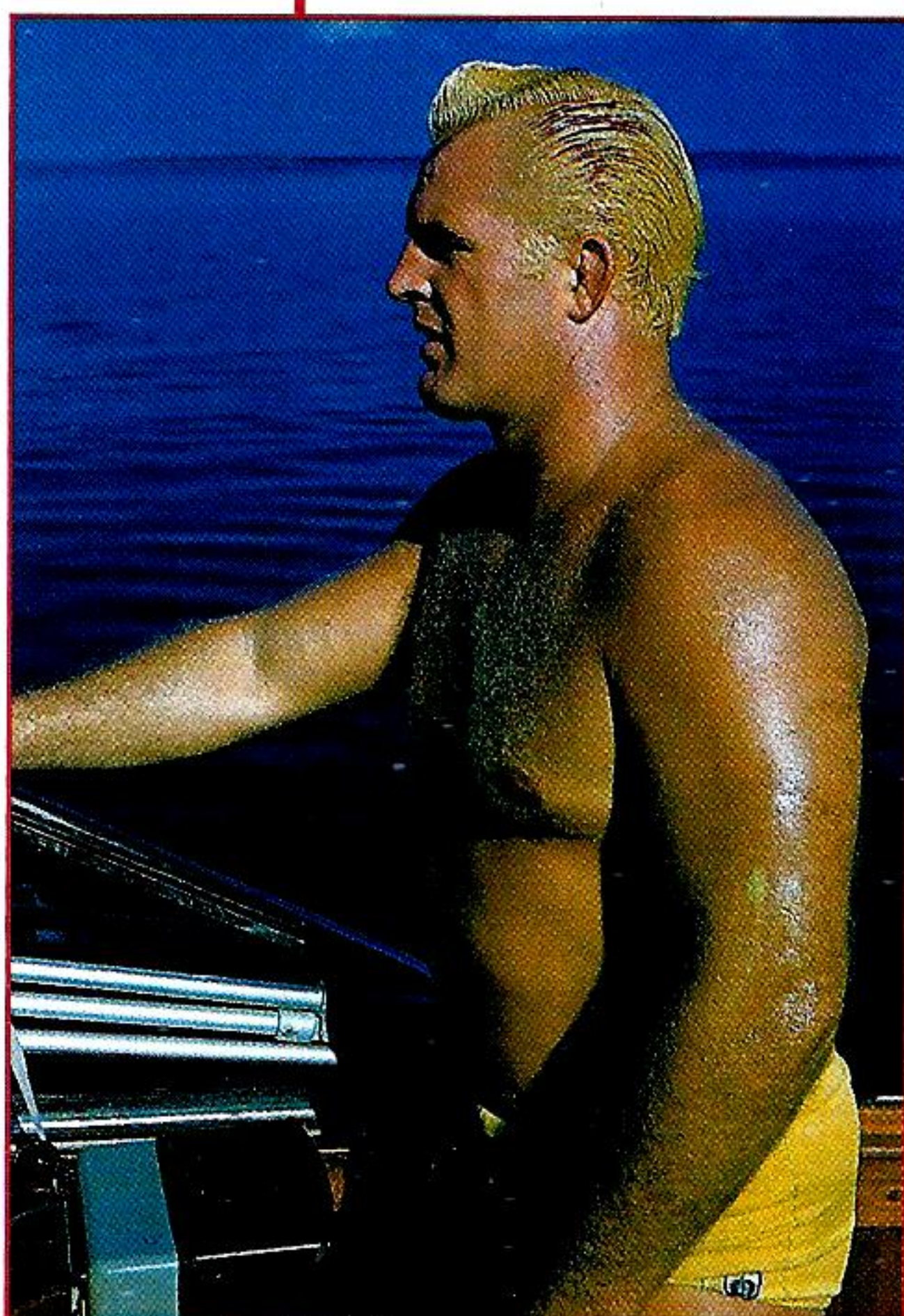
February 24: Sgt. Slaughter wins the \$100,000 "Star Wars '85" Pro Wrestling U.S.A. tag team challenge in East Rutherford, New Jersey. Slaughter had been scheduled to pair with Jerry Blackwell in the 12-team event, but because of an injury to Blackwell, he ends up wrestling (and winning) alone.

January 11: Dennis Condrey and Bobby Eaton—The Midnight Express—capture the World Class American tag team title by defeating Bobby Fulton and Tommy Rogers—The Fantastics—in Dallas.

January 21: Eddie Graham dies of a self-inflicted gunshot wound at his home in Beach Park, Florida, at the age of 55.

January 27: Eddie Gilbert's manager, Jimmy Hart, insists that Gilbert be called King Edward following his Texas death match victory over Jerry "The King" Lawler for the Mid-Southern title in Memphis.

February 21: The infamous installment of *20/20* in which the WWF's "Dr. D" David Shultz hits reporter John Stossel in the ears airs on ABC; Stossel later receives a \$280,000 settlement from the WWF after a filing a lawsuit.



1985

In each issue, INSIDE WRESTLING will journey back in time to look at how the major events of one particular year rocked the wrestling world

February 26:

Under the management of Percy Pringle (Paul Bearer), The Pretty Young Things (Norvell Austin and Koko Ware) win the U.S. tag team title from Jay and Mark Youngblood in Tampa.

March 16:

Dusty Rhodes defeats Tully Blanchard for the NWA TV title in Greensboro, North Carolina.

March 28:

Hulk Hogan renders cable-TV talk show host Richard Belzer unconscious while demonstrating a front facelock. Belzer sustains a head wound upon hitting the floor that needs nine stitches to close. He files a \$5-million lawsuit for which he ultimately receives an undisclosed settlement.

February 27:

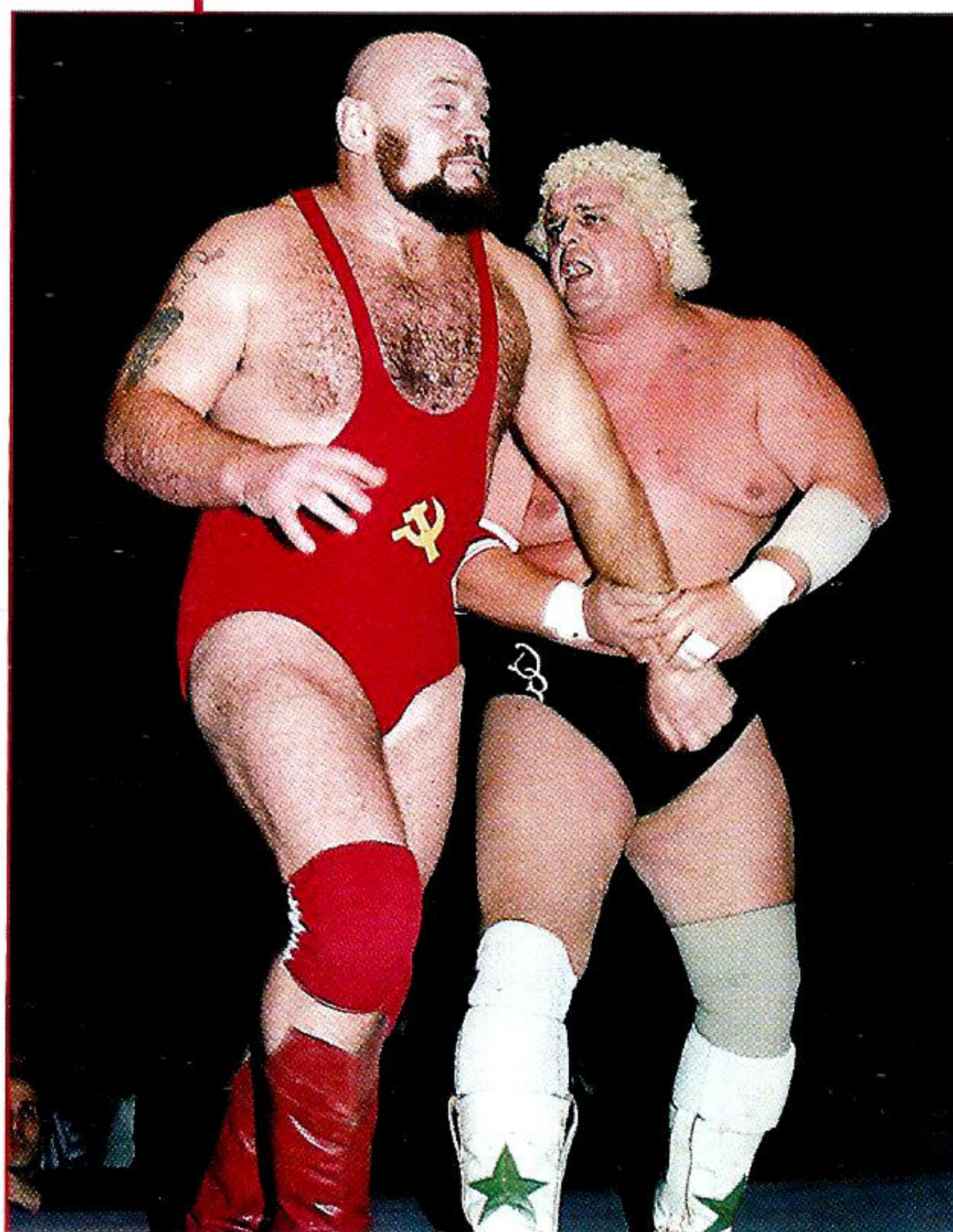
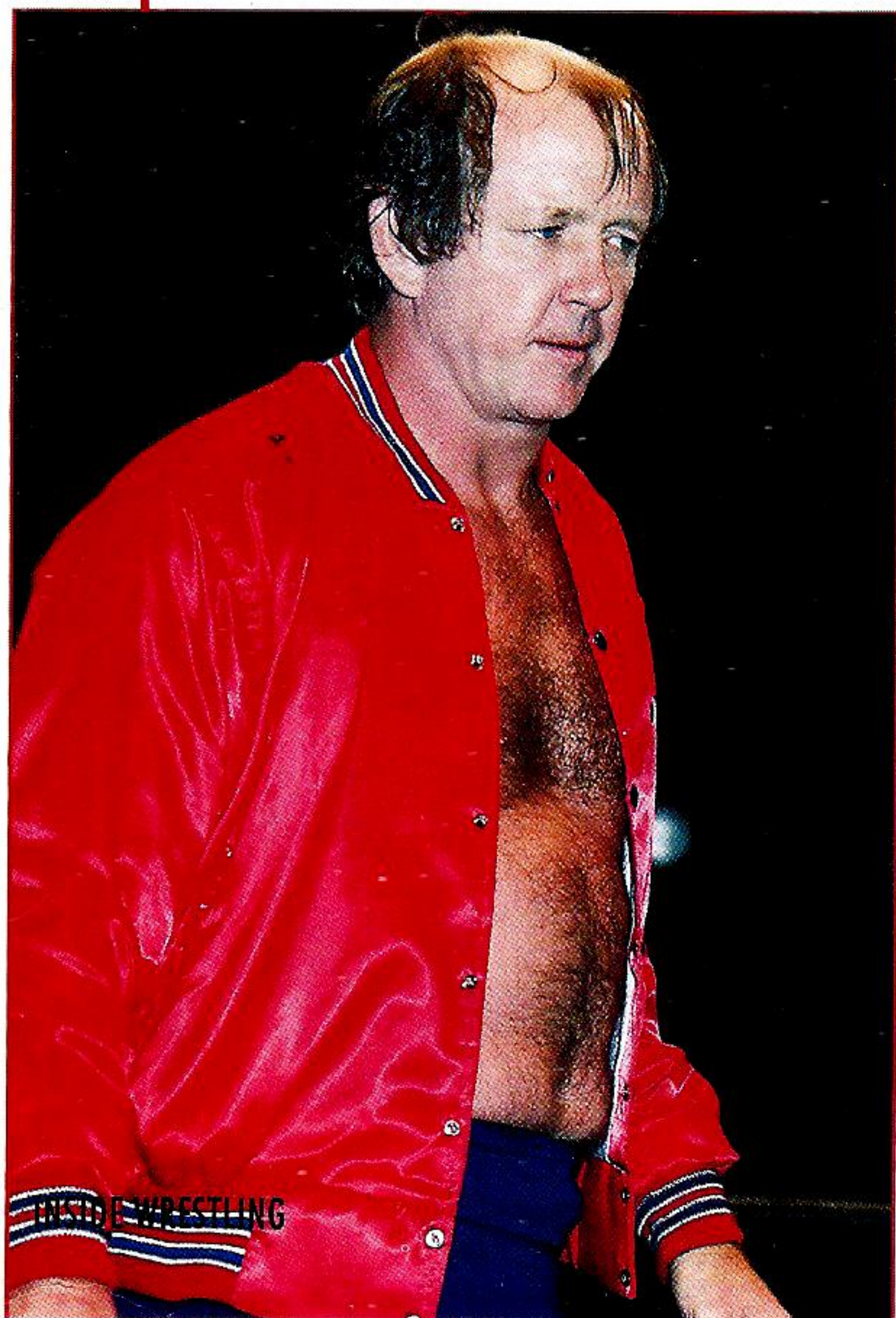
Dory Funk Jr. captures the WWC Universal title from Carlos Colon on a card in Bangor, Maine.

March 8:

Bull Curry dies at the age of 70.

March 18:

Ivan and Nikita Koloff defeat Dusty Rhodes and Manny Fernandez for the NWA World tag team title in Fayetteville, North Carolina. The NWA later allows any combination of Ivan, Nikita, and Krusher Khrushchev (Barry Darsow) to defend the belts.

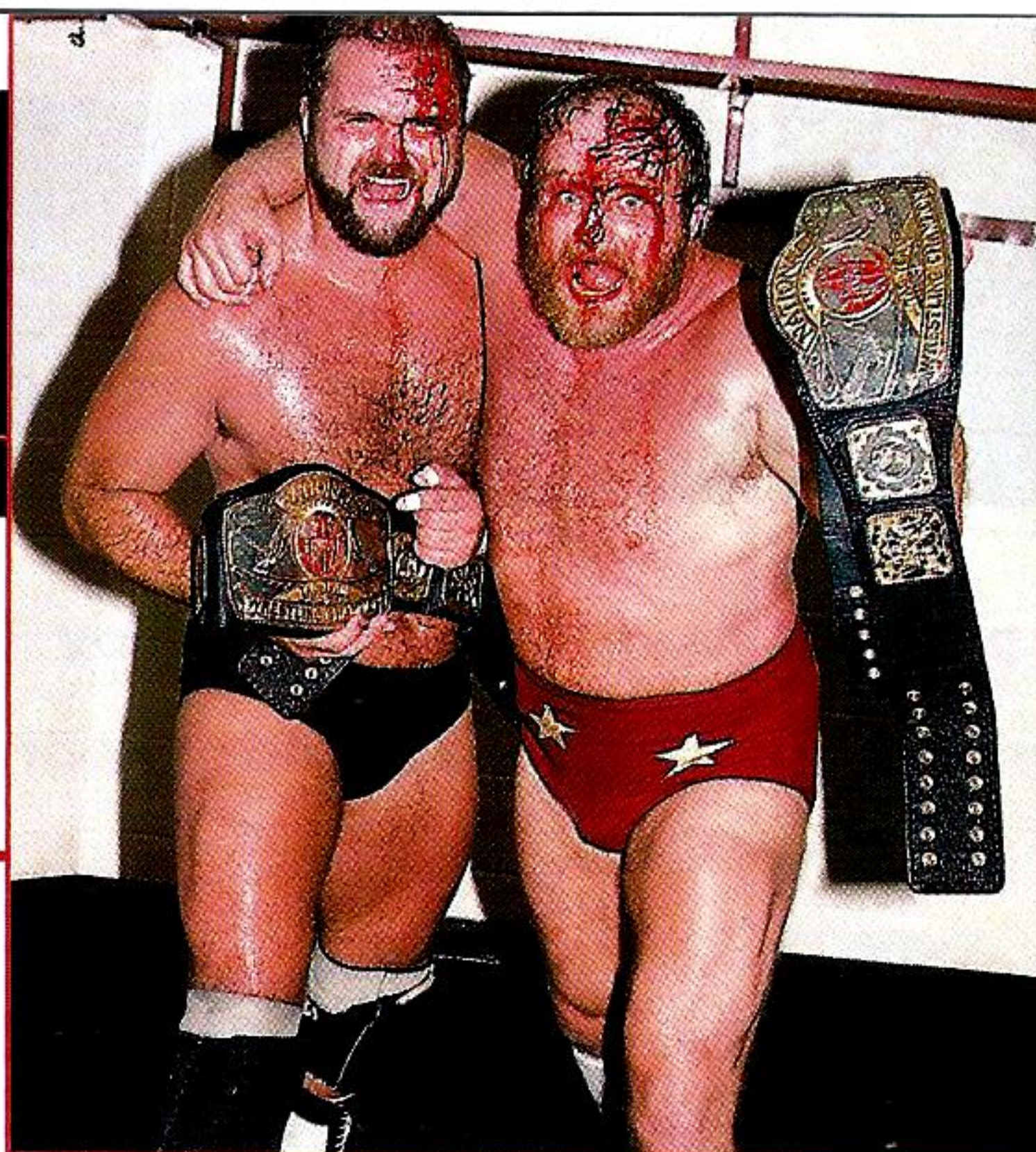


March 31:

Approximately 400,000 fans watch the first WrestleMania at a total of 135 closed-circuit locations. Hulk Hogan and Mr. T defeat Paul Orndorff and Roddy Piper in the main event of the Madison Square Garden supercard.

April 28:

Arn and Ole Anderson win the National tag team title from Thunderbolt Patterson and Manny Fernandez in Charlotte, North Carolina.

**May 4:**

INSIDE WRESTLING columnist Dan Shocket dies of cancer at the age of 35.

May 11:

Professional wrestling returns to network TV after a 30-year absence in the form of the WWF's *Saturday Night's Main Event*. Hulk Hogan takes on Bob Orton in the main event of the first show.

April 28:

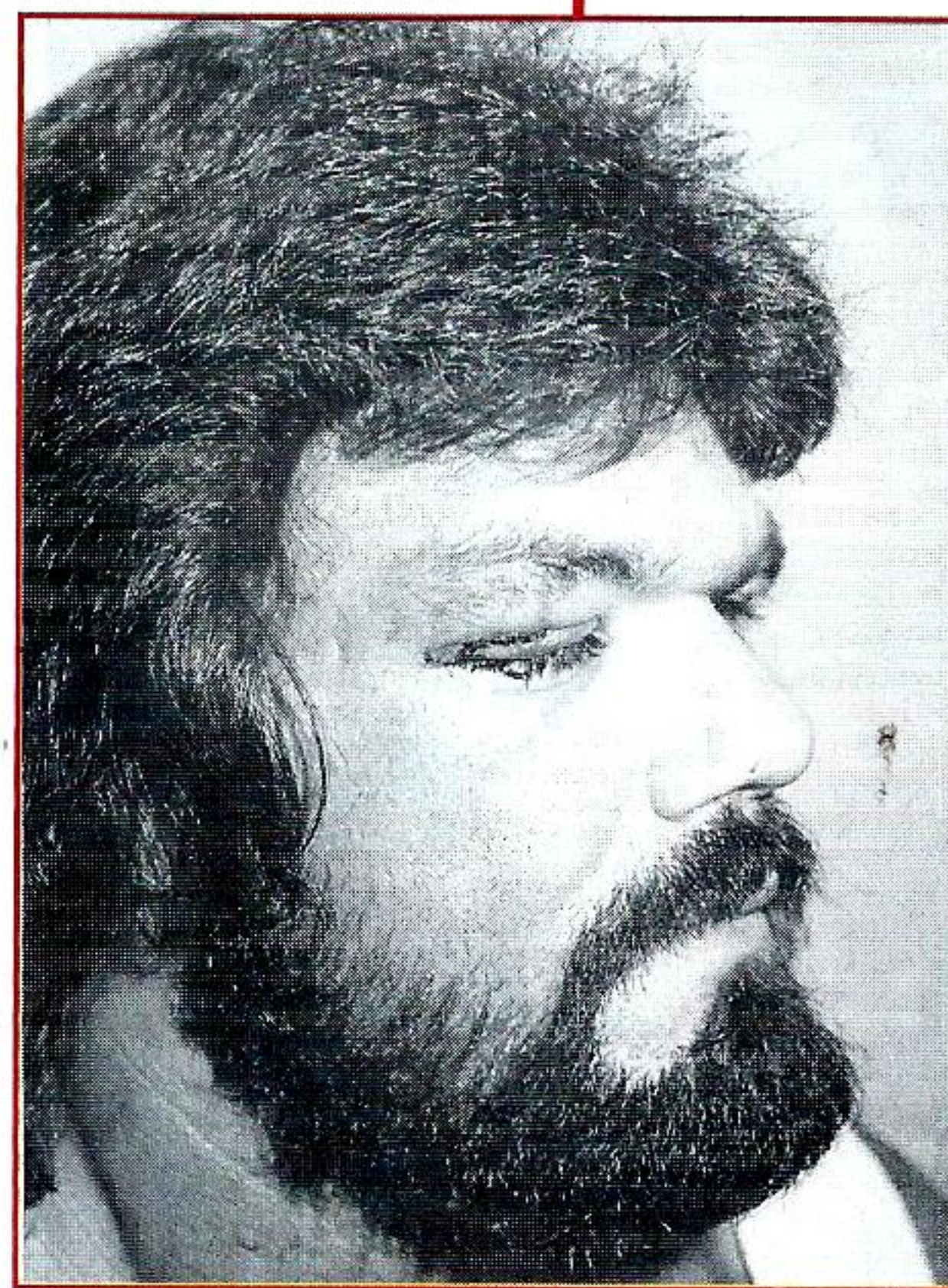
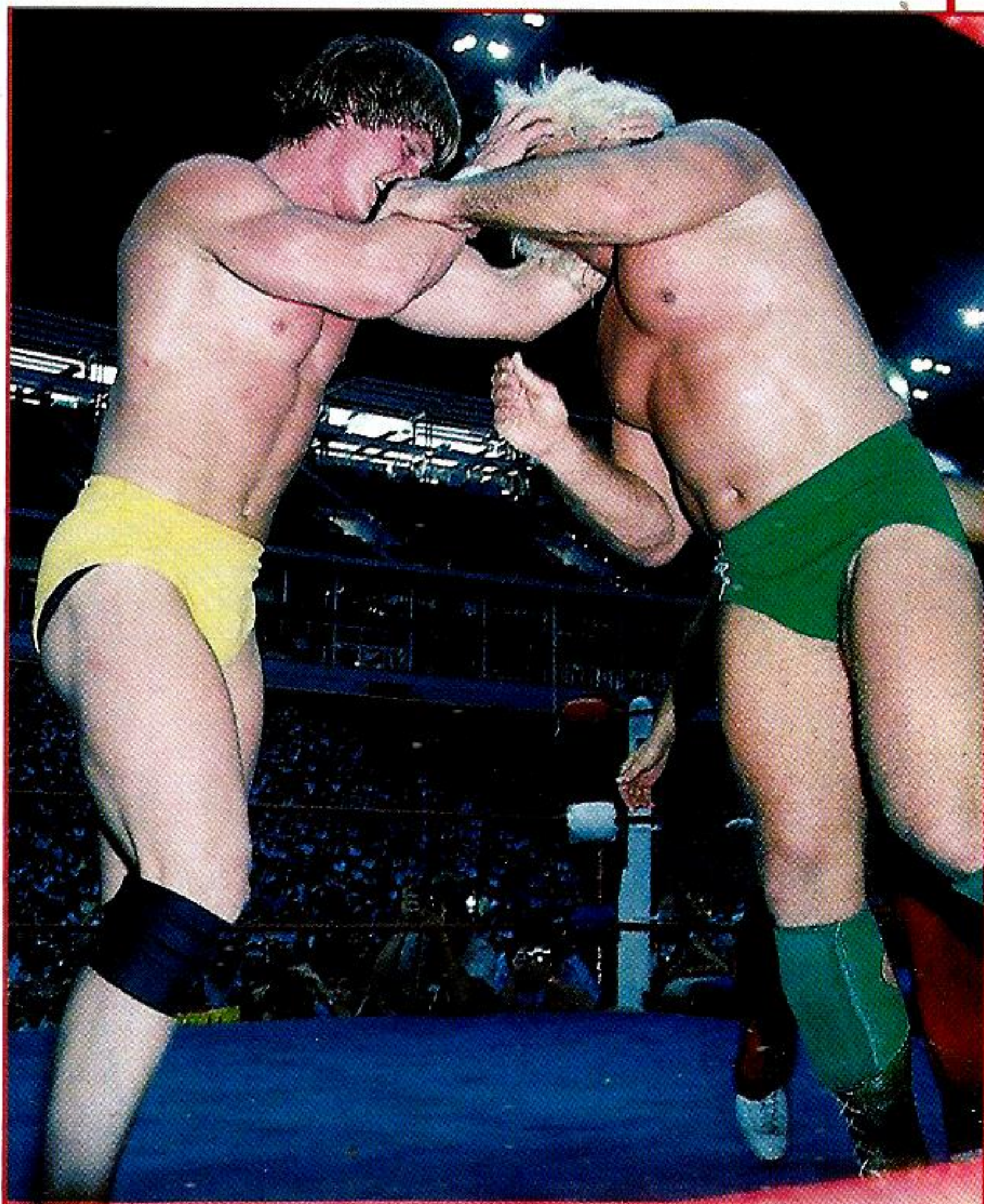
Former AWA World champ Verne Gagne sustains two broken ribs during a comeback match in which he teams with Sgt. Slaughter and Jerry Blackwell against Superstar, King Tonga, and Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie.

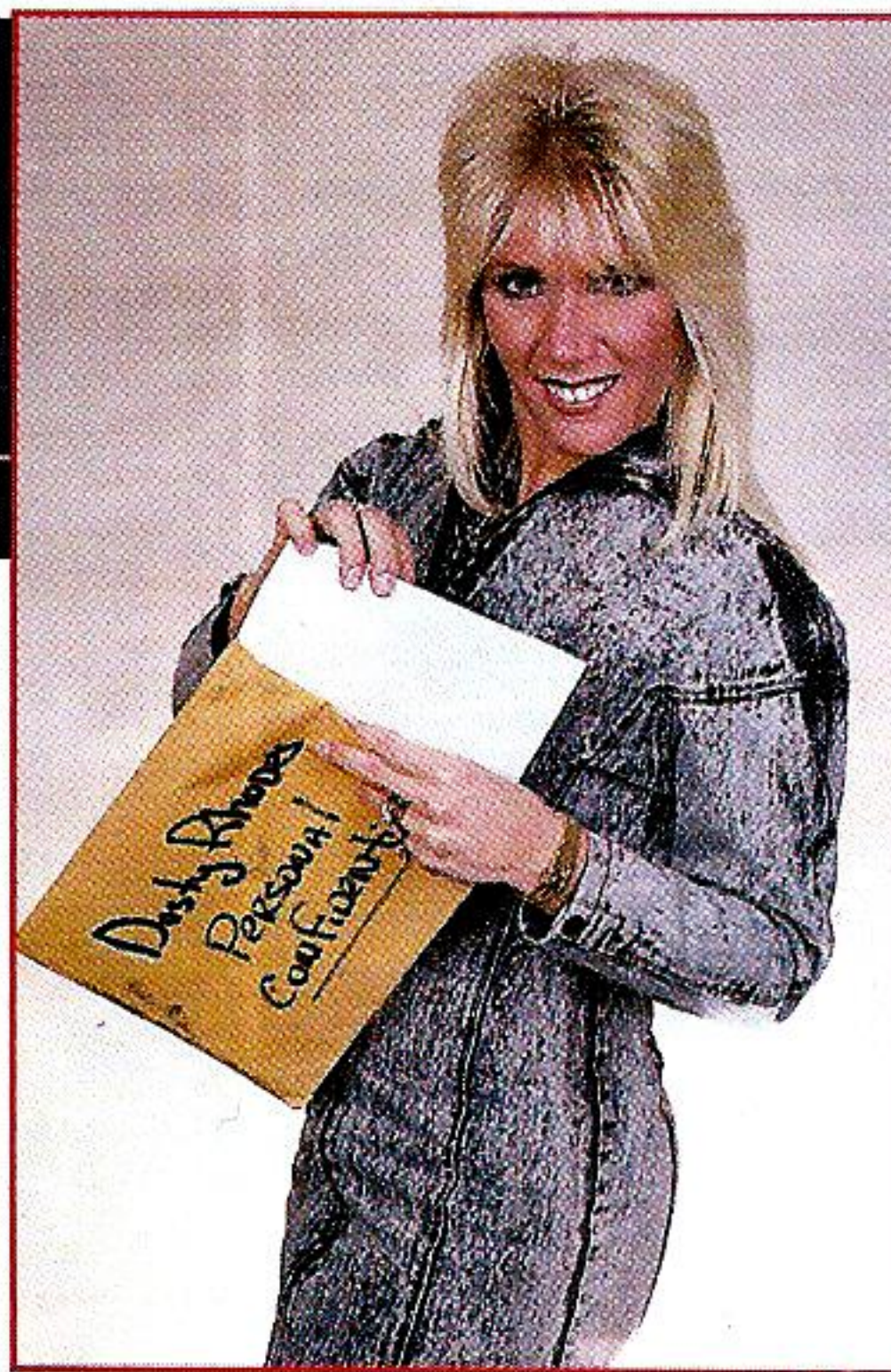
May 5:

Kevin Von Erich battles NWA World champion Ric Flair to a double-countout at the second annual David Von Erich Memorial Parade of Champions at Texas Stadium in Irving, Texas.

June 5:

Just hours after receiving 108 stitches near his right eye following a match with Brad Armstrong, "Dr. Death" Steve Williams wrestles again.





June 6:

Mr. Saito and Ken Patera are found guilty of several assault charges stemming from a fight with police officers in Waukesha, Wisconsin. Both are sentenced to two years in prison.

June 17:

Mike Rotundo and Barry Windham win their second WWF World tag team title of the year by defeating The Iron Sheik and Nikolai Volkoff in Poughkeepsie, New York.

July 6:

Tully Blanchard loses his bodyguard, Baby Doll, for 30 days as a result of his loss to Dusty Rhodes in a cage match. She later gets revenge on Dusty by swiping his credit card and going on a huge spending spree.

June 8:

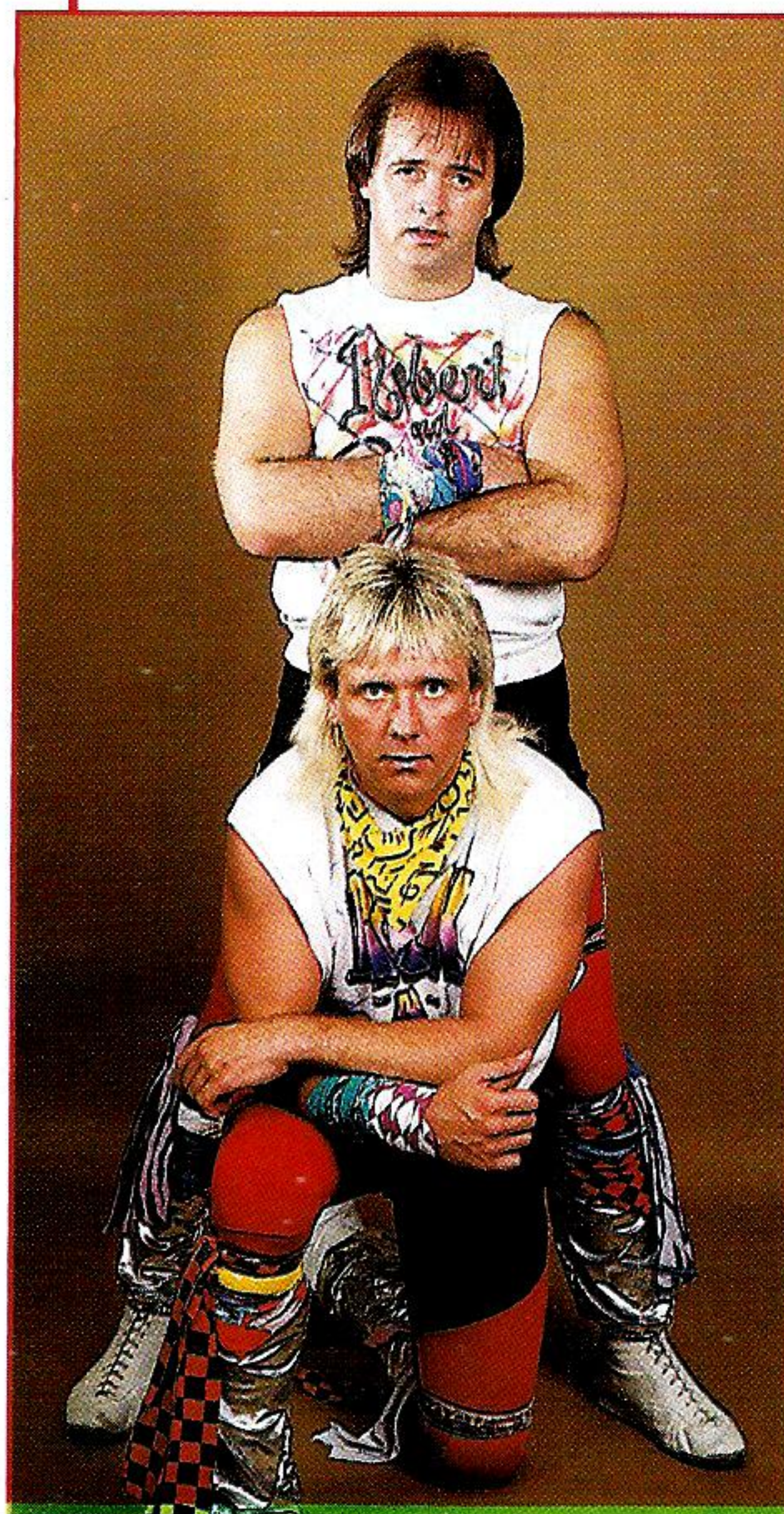
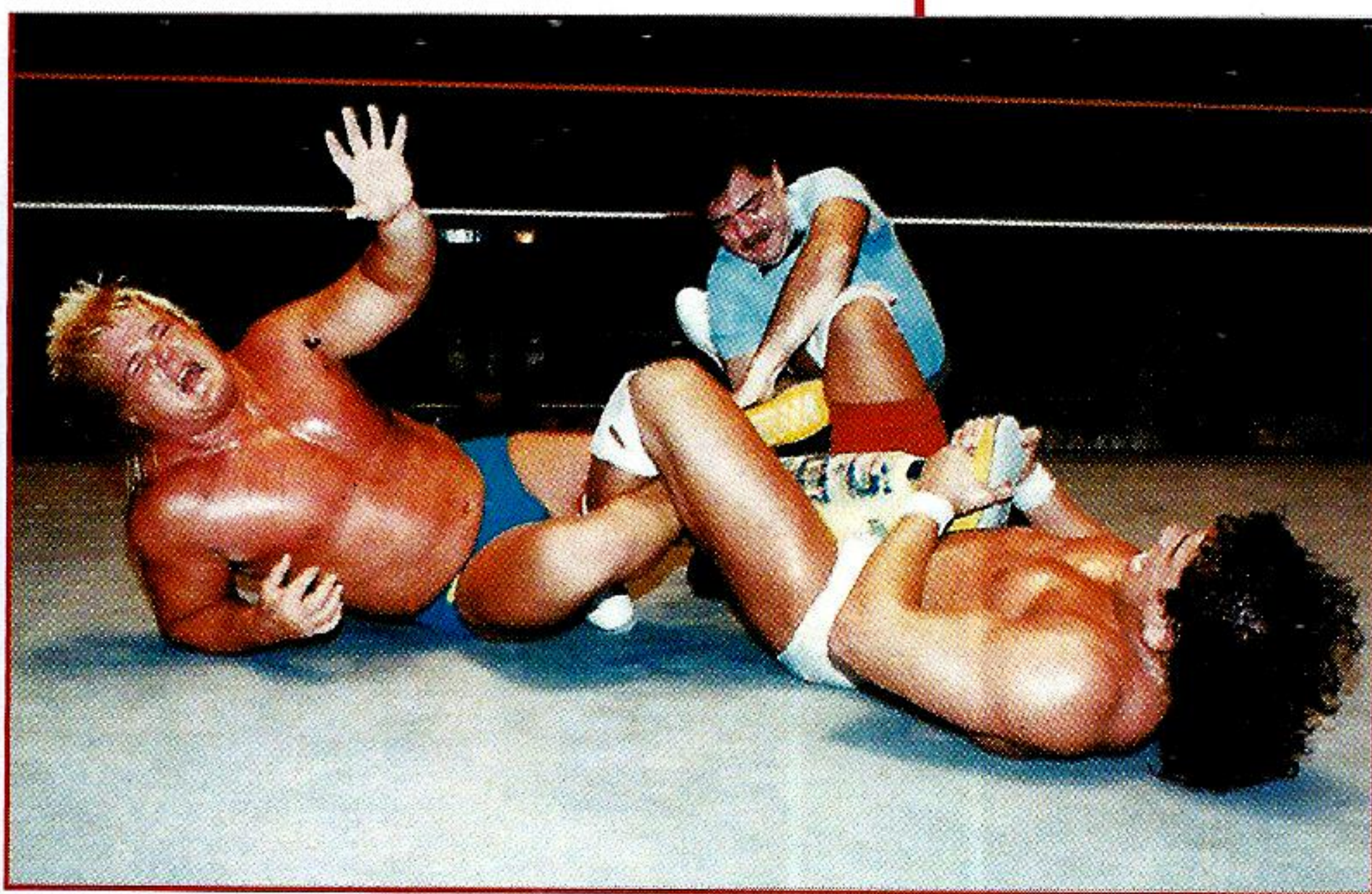
Dynamite Kid beats Mighty Inoue for the NWA International junior heavyweight title in Takamatsu, Japan.

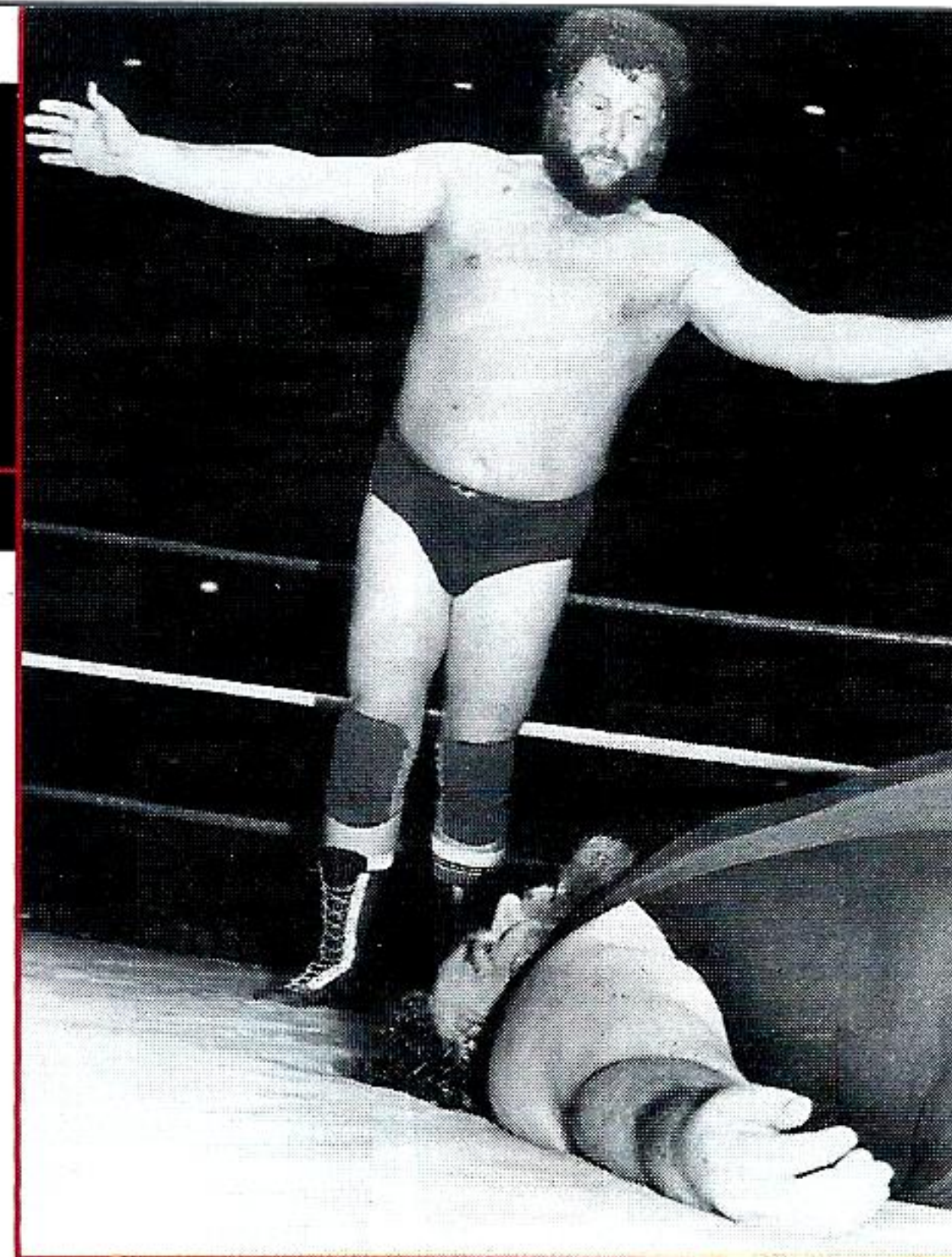
July 6:

Tito Santana defeats Greg Valentine for the WWF Intercontinental title in Baltimore. It marks the beginning of a seven-month reign for Santana.

July 9:

Rick Morton and Robert Gibson—The Rock 'n' Roll Express—win the first of their four NWA World tag team titles together by beating Ivan Koloff and Krusher Khrushchev in Shelby, North Carolina.





August 2:

Harley Race captures his record-setting seventh Missouri State heavyweight title when he defeats Jerry Blackwell in St. Louis. The title is abandoned roughly six months later.

July 15:

Terry Taylor wins his second and final Continental Wrestling Association International title by beating Phil Hickerson in Memphis.

July 25:

Bull Nakano wins her only All-Japan Women Japanese title by beating Mika Komatsu in a tournament final in Edmonton.

July 21:

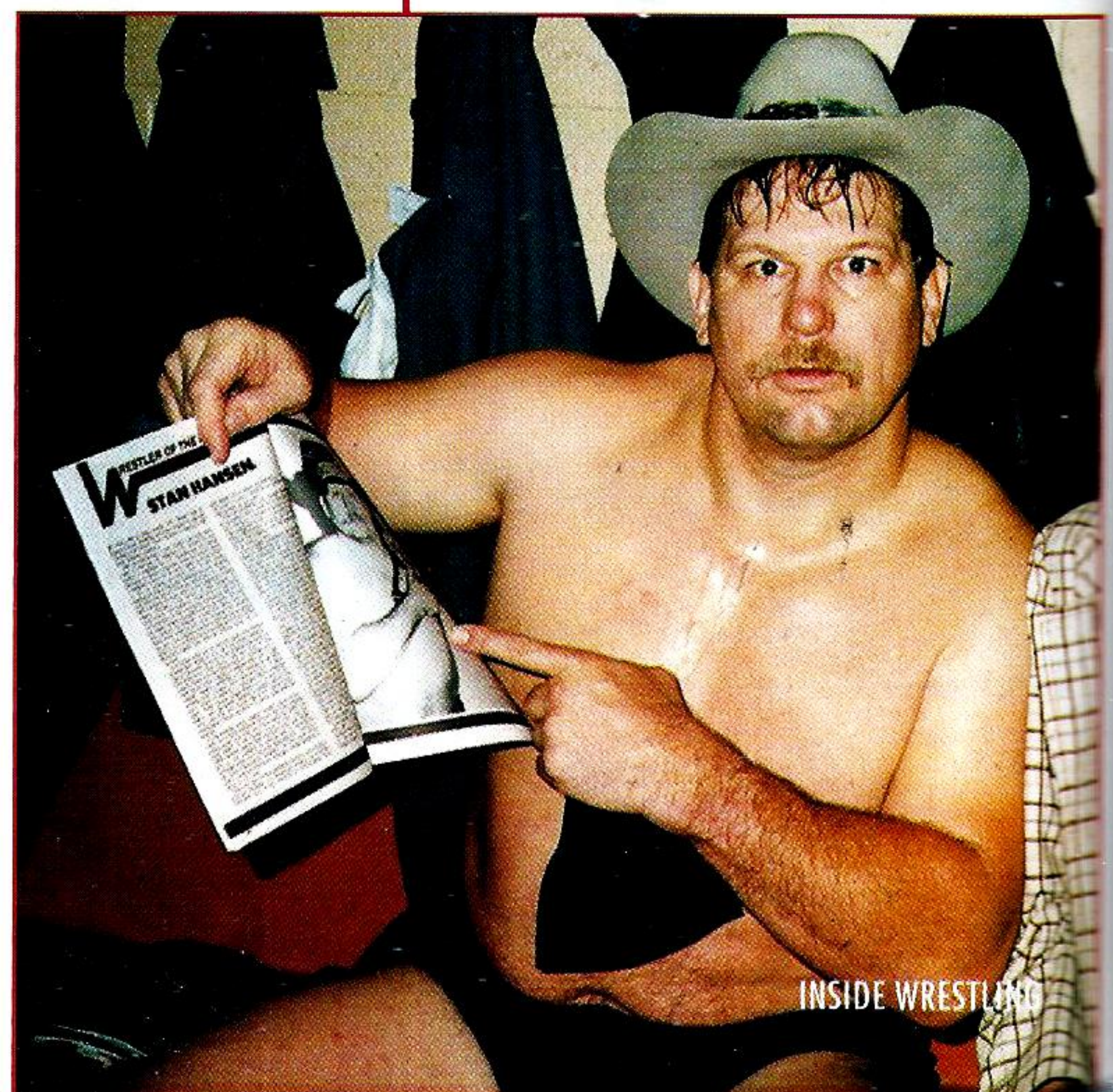
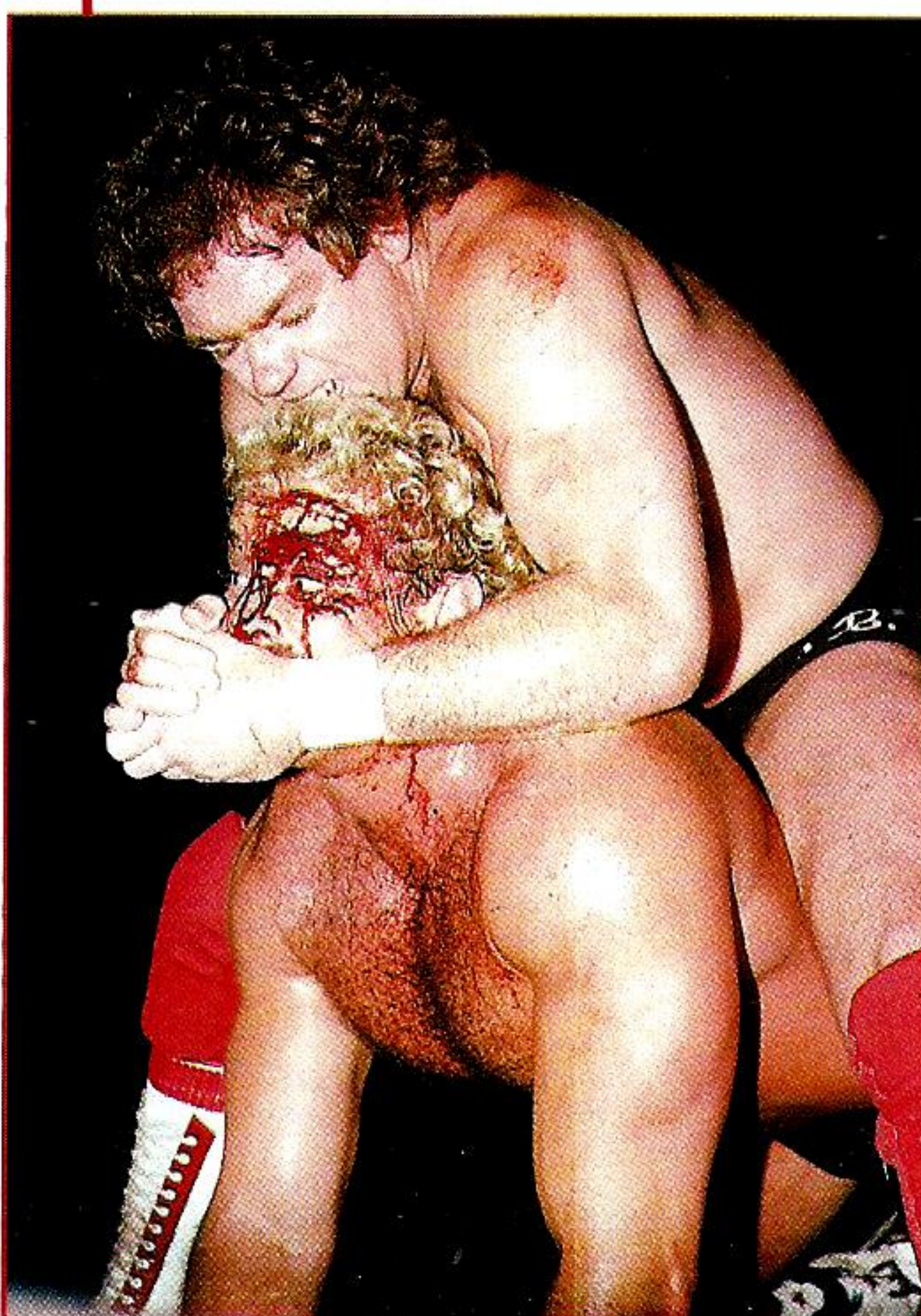
Tully Blanchard defeats Magnum T.A. for the NWA U.S. title after Baby Doll dresses up as a security guard at ringside and hands him a roll of coins with which he knocks out Magnum.

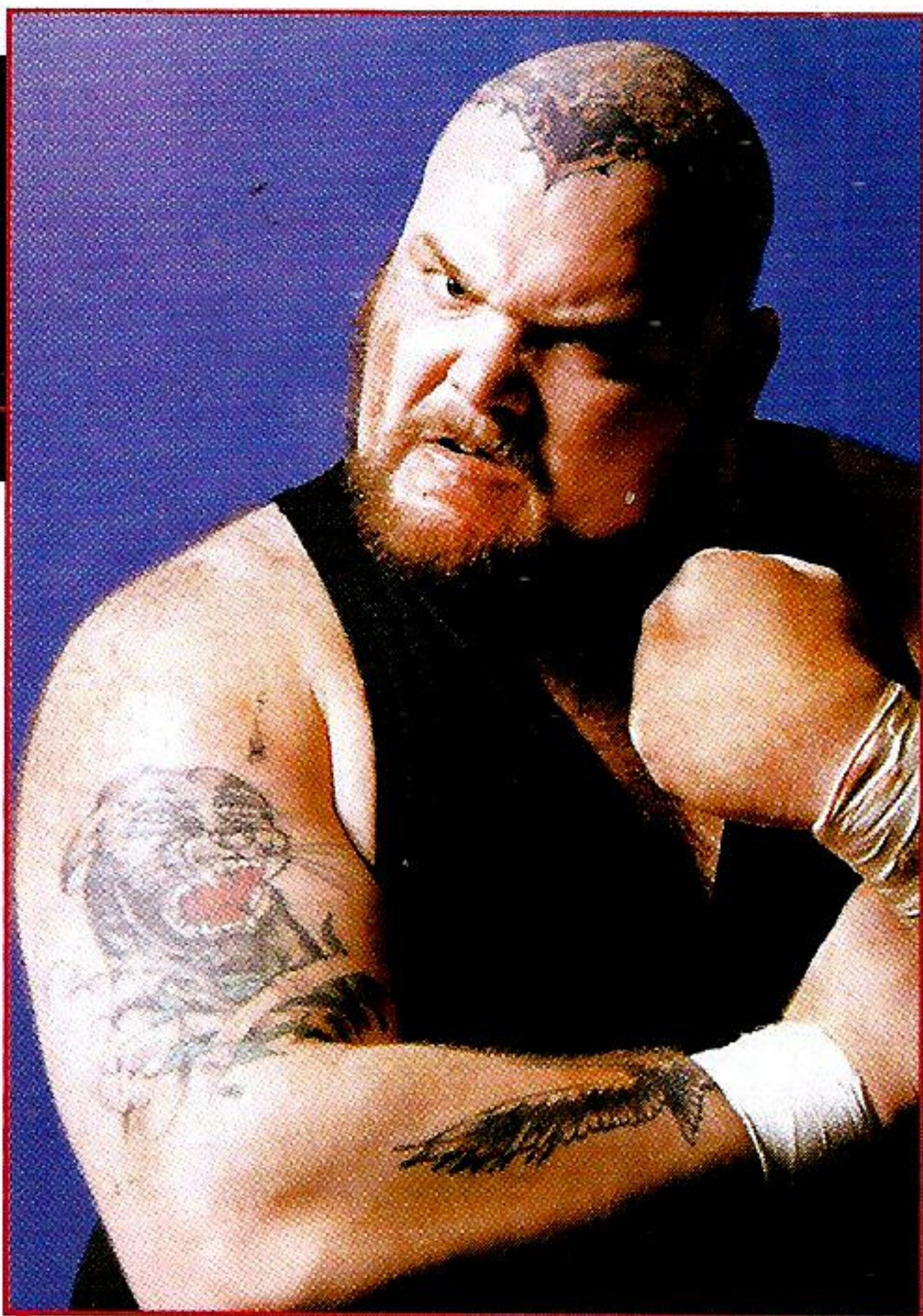
July 23:

Perennial loser Jack Hart (now known as Barry Horowitz) wins the Florida State heavyweight title by beating Mike Graham in Tampa. He holds the belt until September 2, when Kendall Windham beats him.

July 30:

Stan Hansen captures his second All-Japan Pacific Wrestling Federation heavyweight title by defeating Shohei "Giant" Baba in Fukuoka.





1985

August 23:
Bam Bam Bigelow makes his pro debut.

August 27:
ESPN airs wrestling for the first time as it begins broadcasting a weekly AWA program.

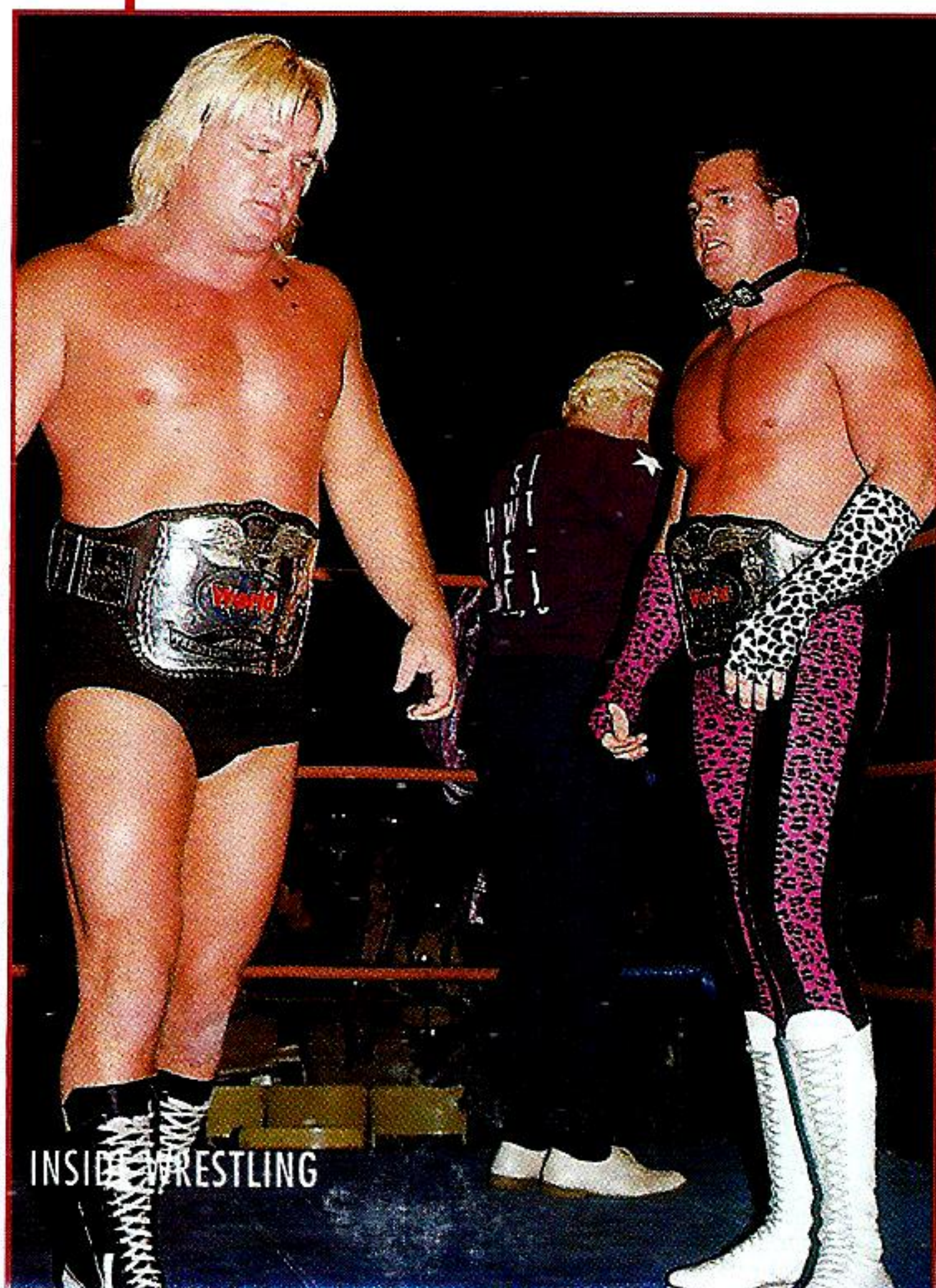
September 20:
Fred Blassie and Capt. Lou Albano wrestle each other in a forgettable steel cage match at Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, New York.

October 6:
Chris Adams and Gino Hernandez are forced to have their heads shaved after a loss to Kerry and Kevin Von Erich at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas.

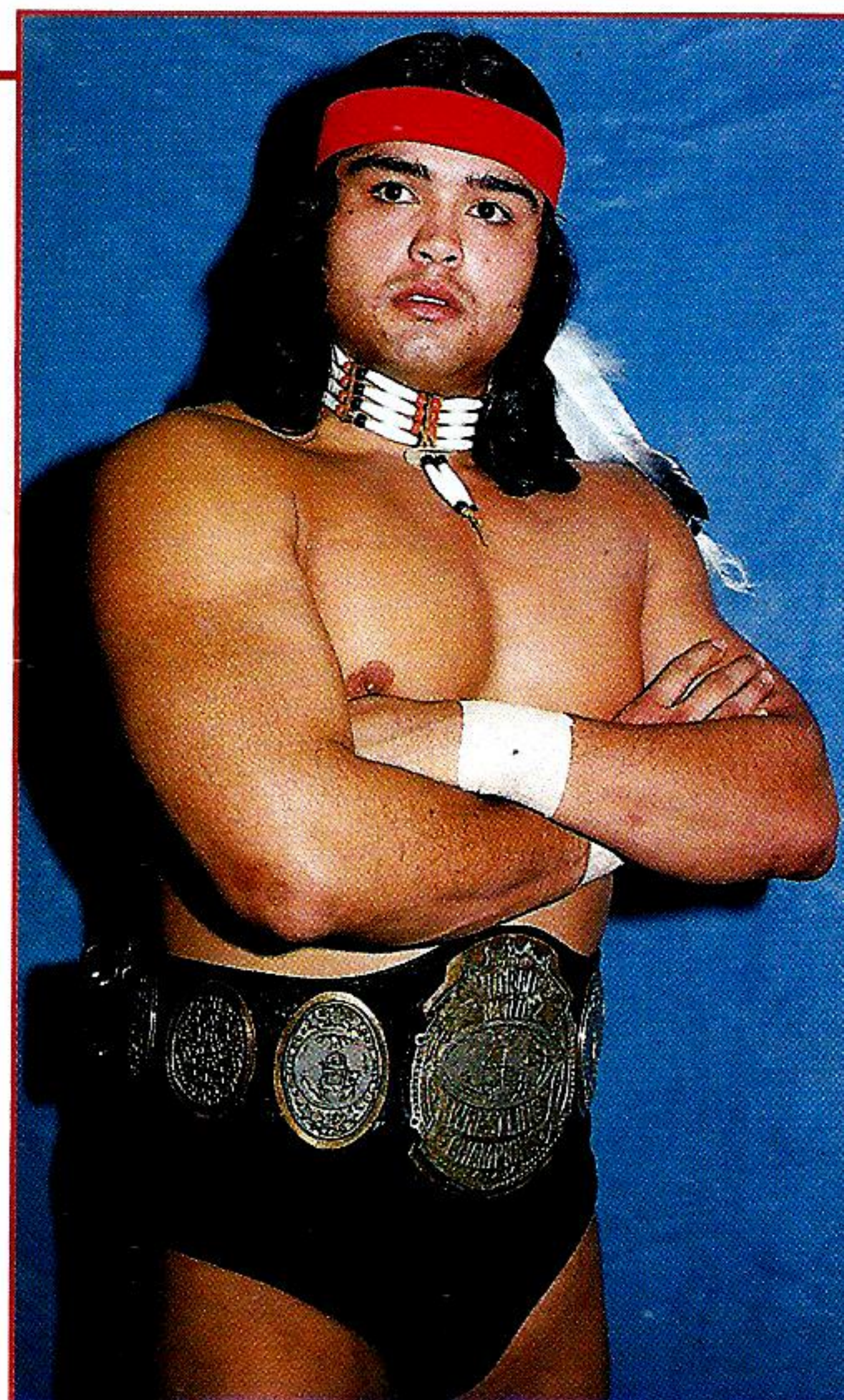
August 24:
Greg Valentine and Brutus Beefcake's victory over Mike Rotundo and Barry Windham for the WWF World tag title marks the first time in history that WWF tag champs are managed by different people. Valentine is advised by Jimmy Hart, while Johnny Valiant guides Beefcake's career.

September 1:
Former NWA World tag team champion Jay Youngblood dies after suffering a ruptured spleen and three heart attacks in New Zealand. He was 30.

September 29:
Jim Garvin and Steve Regal (not the WWF wrestler) end the 13-month AWA World tag team title reign of The Road Warriors by defeating them in St. Paul, Minnesota.



INSIDE WRESTLING



October 21:

NWA World champion Ric Flair battles AWA World champion Rick Martel to a thrilling 30-minute double-countout in Tokyo.

November 7:

The WWF airs its first pay-per-view, Wrestling Classic, from the Rosemont Horizon in Rosemont, Illinois. World champion Hulk Hogan defeats Roddy Piper by disqualification in the main event.



November 19:

Lex Luger makes headlines by capturing the Southern heavyweight title from Wahoo McDaniel in Tampa less than three weeks after making his pro debut.

November 1:

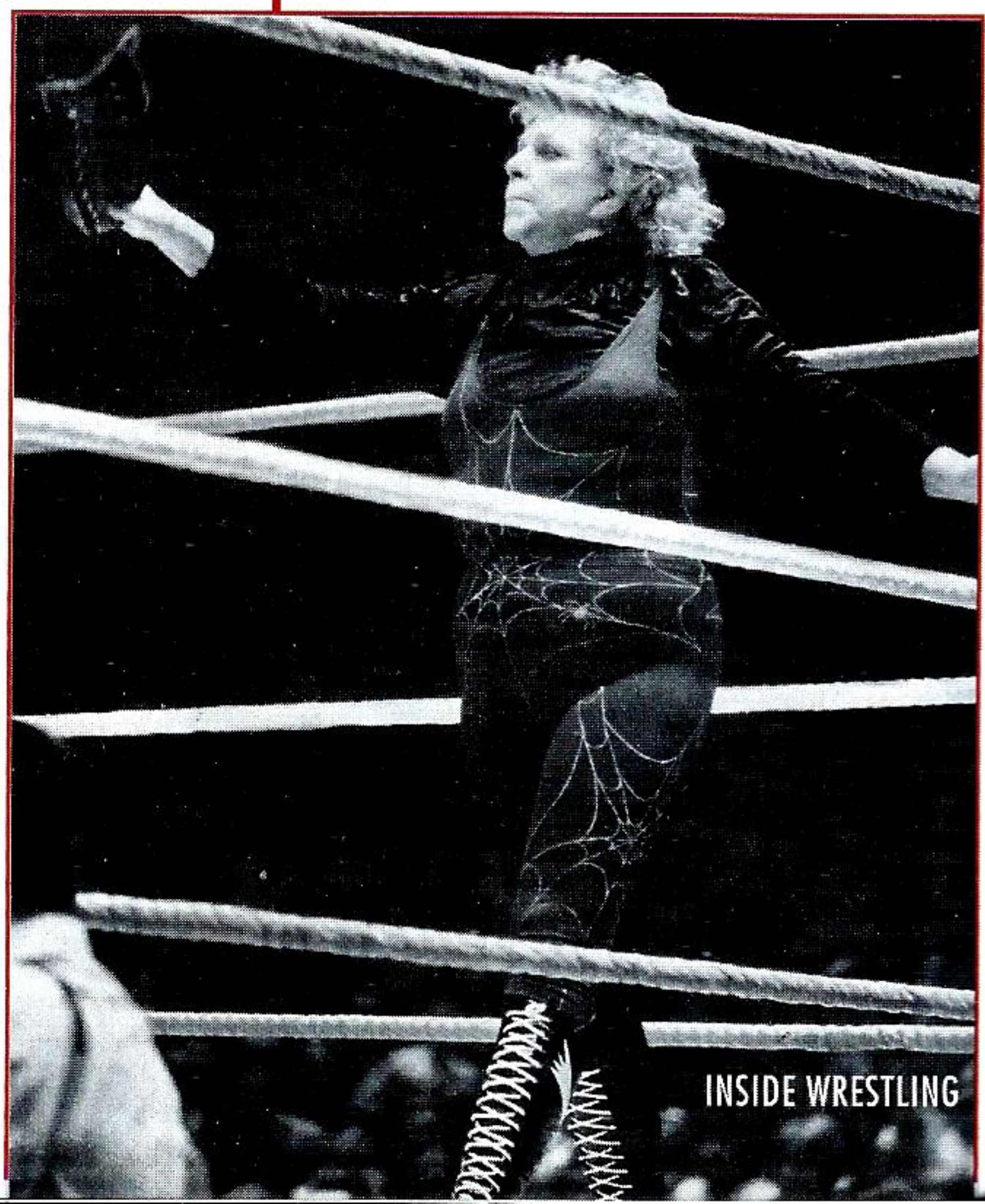
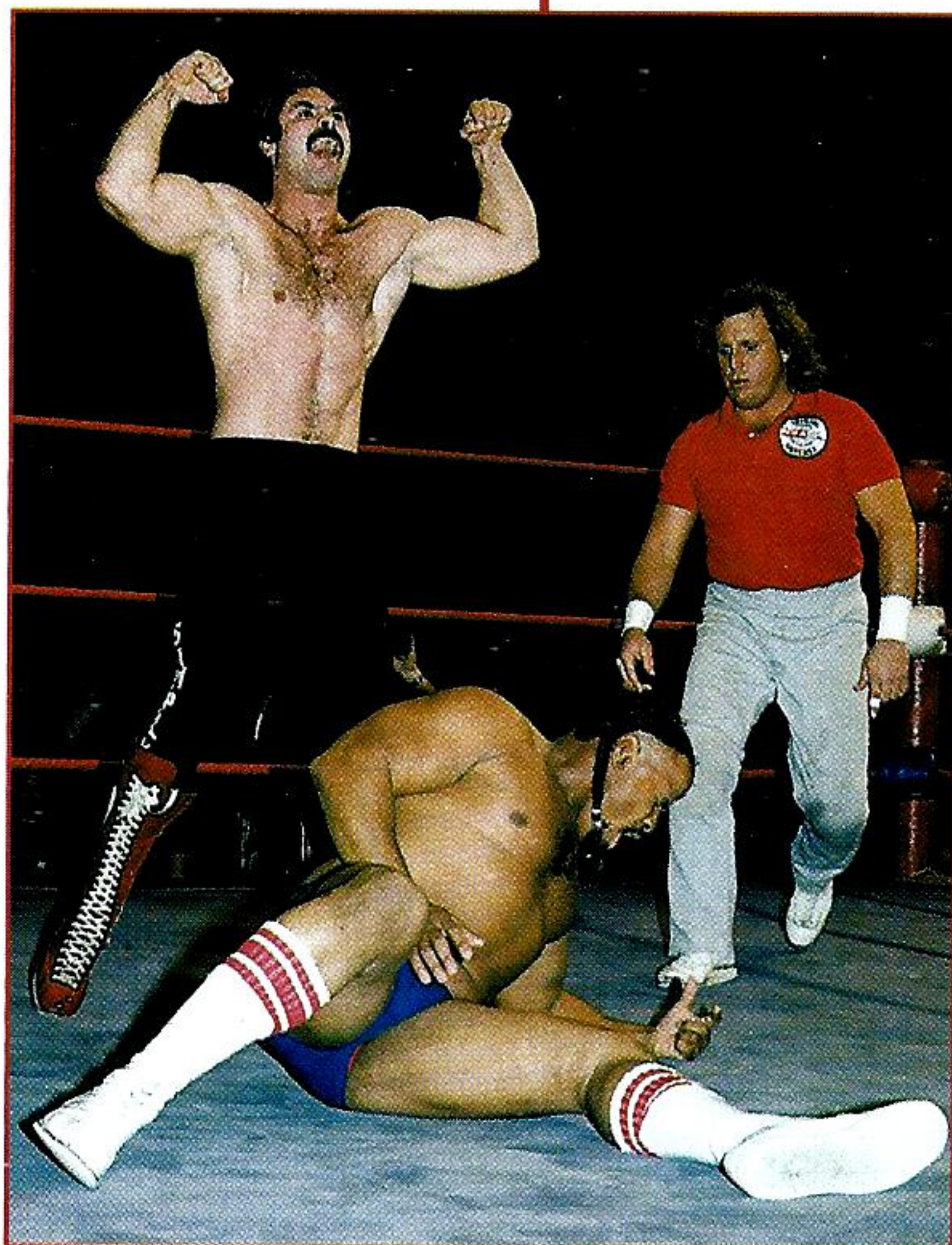
Rick McGraw dies of a heart attack at his home in New Haven, Connecticut, at age 30.

November 4:

Shortly after World Class secedes from the NWA, Rick Rude wins the World Class American title from Iceman King Parsons in a bout the promotion bills as a world title match.

November 25:

Wrestling as the masked Spider Lady, the legendary Fabulous Moolah ends the eight-month WWF women's title reign of Wendi Richter by beating her in New York City. Moolah unmask after the match.



1985



December 9:

Jack Victory captures his only World Class TV title by defeating Dave Peterson in Fort Worth, Texas.

December 26:

Ted DiBiase and Steve Williams win the Mid-South tag team title by defeating Eddie Gilbert and Dick Murdoch. Murdoch substitutes for Gilbert's championship partner, The Nightmare, who has car trouble and can't make it to the show.

November 28:

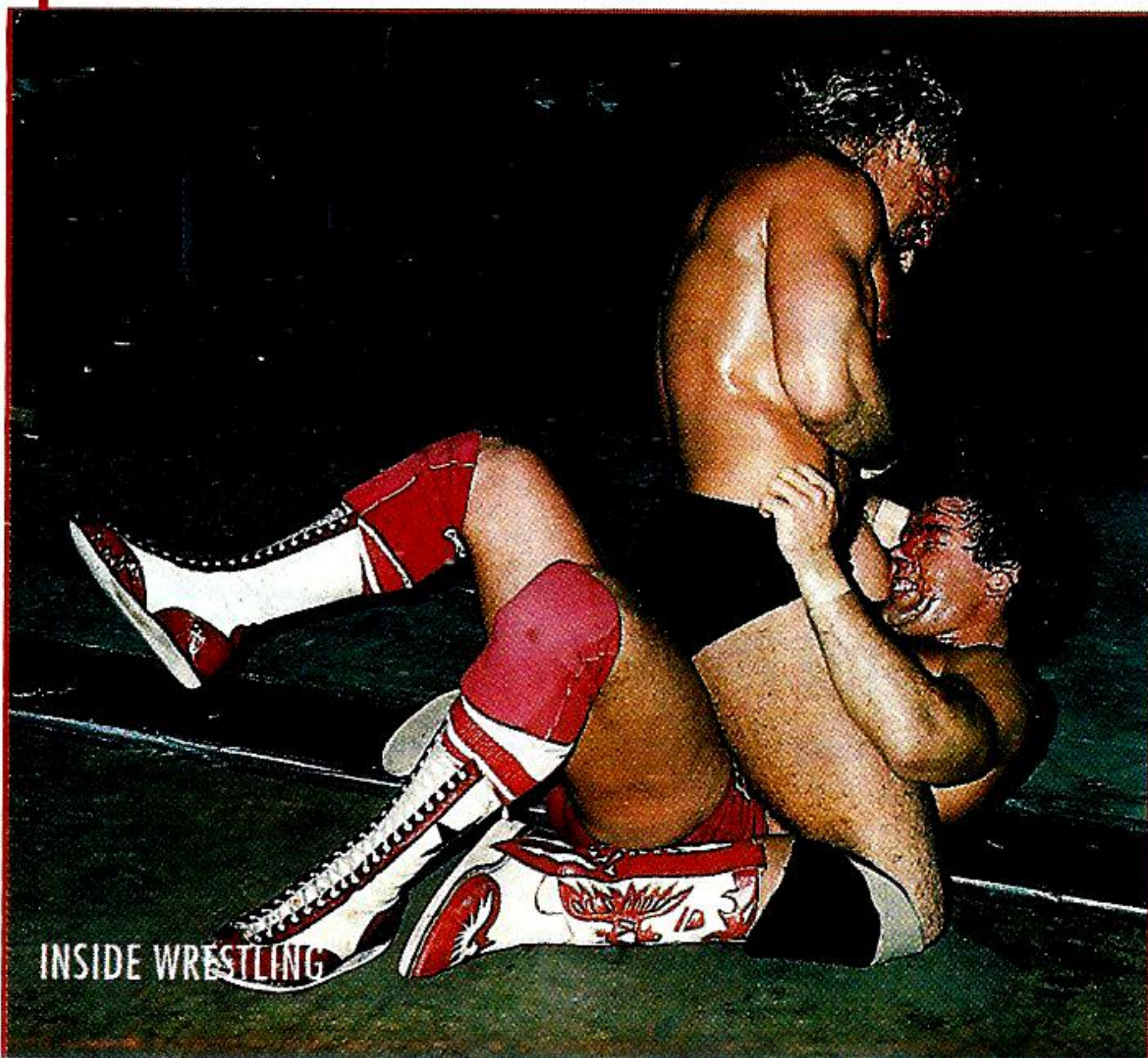
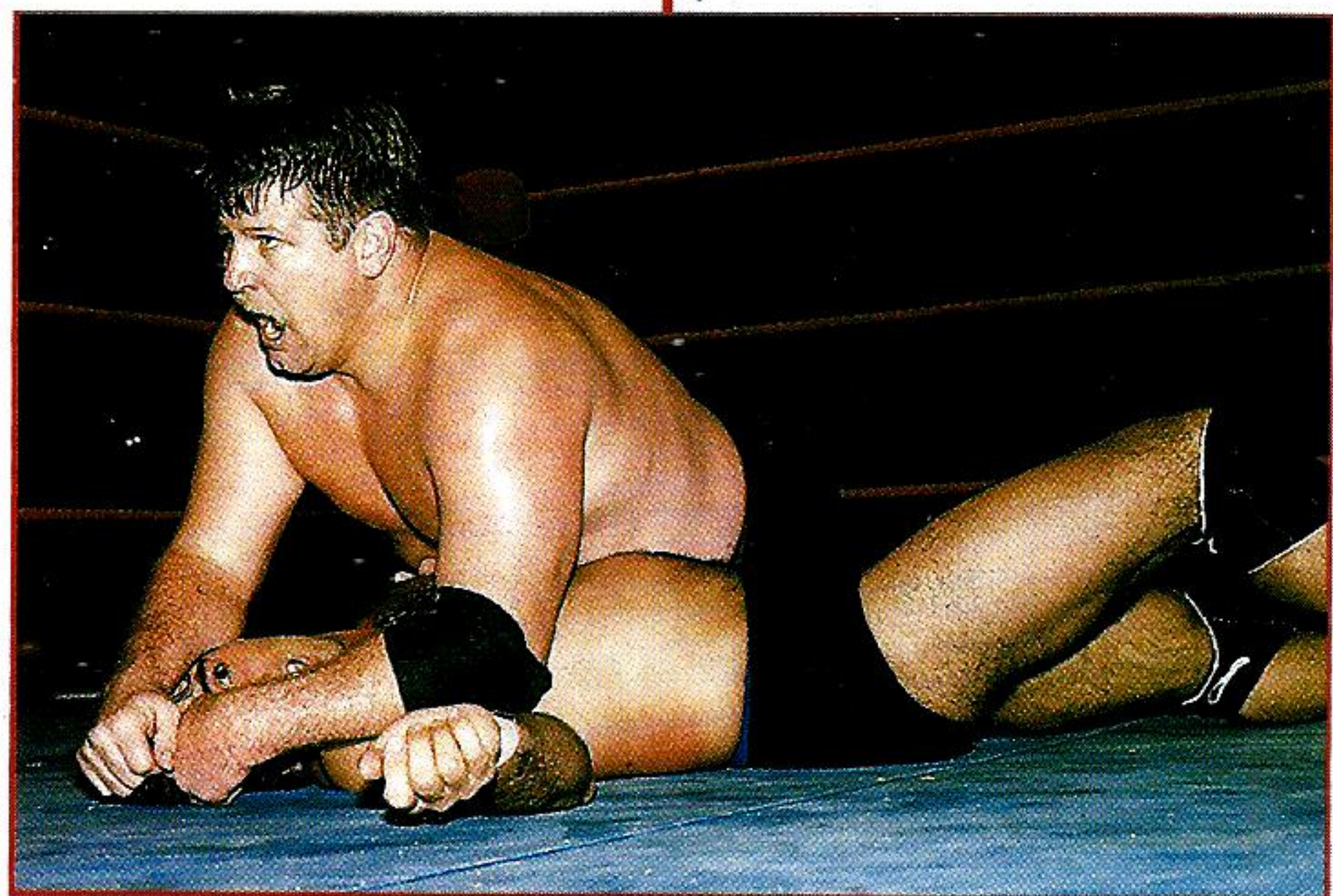
Magnum T.A. wins his second and final NWA U.S. title by defeating Tully Blanchard at Starrcade. Other new champions crowned that night are The Rock 'n' Roll Express, who beat Ivan and Nikita Koloff for the tag belts; Krusher Khrushchev, who wins the vacant Mid-Atlantic title by beating Sam Houston; and Buddy Landell, who beats Terry Taylor for the National title.

December 12:

Tatsumi Fujinami and Kengo Kimura become the first IWGP tag team champions by beating Antonio Inoki and Seiji Sakaguchi in the finals of New Japan's annual tag team tournament. Fujinami scores his first-ever pin of Inoki, his mentor, in this match.

December 29:

Stan Hansen defeats Rick Martel for his only AWA World title in East Rutherford, New Jersey.



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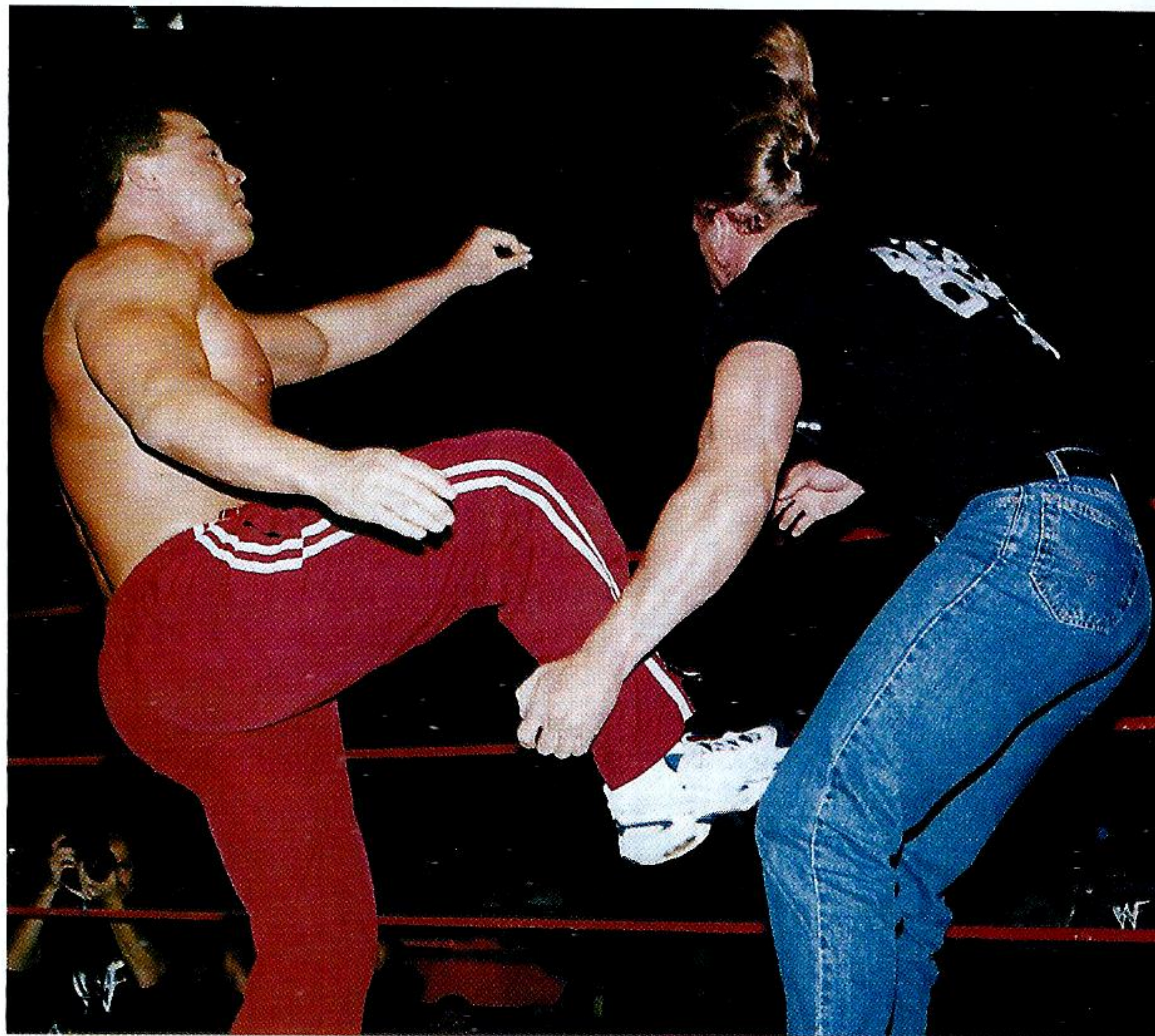
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Sincerely Yours

(Continued from page 5)



Triple-H might be "The Game," but Kurt Angle is the champ! Marie Hood agreed with our January 2001 cover story about the former Olympian. For a while, Angle had every-
body fooled—including us.

WHO'S THE JACKASS NOW?

The cover story of the January 2001 **INSIDE WRESTLING** ("Olympic Games: What Kind Of Angle Has Kurt Been Running?") was right on the mark. As Angle showed with his defeat of The Rock for the WWF World heavyweight title, the former Olympian is far from being an ignorant jackass. In fact, he might be one of the smartest guys in the entire federation.

Think about it. What's the best way to lull your opponent into a vulnerable position? Make him think that you're not a threat, that you're a pushover who can be handled with ease.

Well, Angle did that over time to Triple-H and The Rock. Now look at him. He's the WWF World champion and is escorted to the ring by Vince McMahon's beautiful daughter, Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley.

Angle may be a jackass, but he has certainly proven that he's not an *ignorant* jackass.

MARIE HOOD
Sweet Home, OR

BEST FRIENDS, WORSE ENEMIES

I can't believe that Chris Chetti and Nova are bitter enemies. I simply can't believe it. Chetti and Nova were on the brink of becoming one of ECW's elite tag teams. If they had stayed together only a little longer, perhaps they could have made a run at Little Guido Maritato and Tony Mamaluke's World tag team championship. And where does splitting up get them, anyway? A feud with each other?

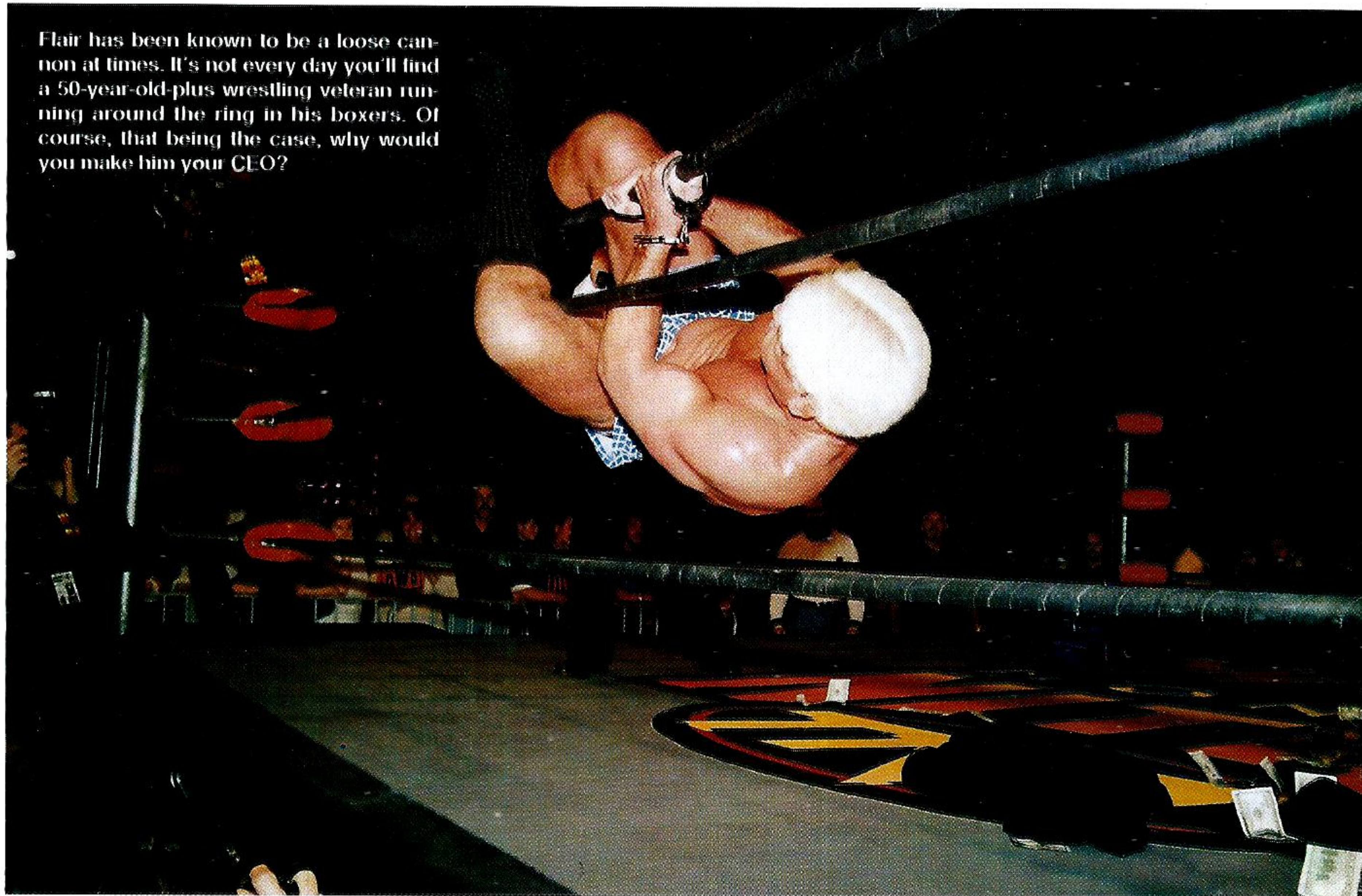
Talk about getting mired in the mid-card—that feud will do it for you.

AL CAHILL
Rowley, MA ☐

On The Road

(Continued from page 10)

Flair has been known to be a loose cannon at times. It's not every day you'll find a 50-year-old-plus wrestling veteran running around the ring in his boxers. Of course, that being the case, why would you make him your CEO?



Not Flair. Allowing others to provide input and solve problems? Forget about it.

The time has come for WCW to realize that hiring new writers (like Vince Russo) and turning former wrestlers into CEOs and presidents isn't going to change anything. WCW doesn't need mere cosmetic changes. It needs a complete makeover. What WCW really needs is the second coming of Vince McMahon Jr.: a smart, experienced businessman/promoter who allows all of his employees to be creative, one who understands that in a business like wrestling, you can't just keep on following the leader. You have to take the lead. You have to do new things.

WCW was definitely on the right track when it introduced its New Blood era. The problem was that the people in charge expected instant results when they should have been patient. The difference between WCW and

the WWF was that the WWF was patient with its new talent. It realized that fans would need time to get accustomed to the new wrestlers. In the meantime, *Raw* kept taking a beating from *Nitro* in the ratings. McMahon was patient. Finally, the new talent became superstars, while WCW's big stars got older and more stale. The WWF reaped the rewards.

The Rock, Steve Austin, and Triple-H did not become megastars overnight.

Of course, Vince McMahon took a big chance. The risk was that the young stars would never replace Hulk Hogan, Randy Savage, Kevin Nash, and Scott Hall and become new superstars. But that's the thing about business: It's all about risk. McMahon took the risk. WCW keeps waiting for instant results.

Waiting isn't easy in today's wrestling climate. The first thing we read about every Tuesday morning are the

Monday night ratings. It's tough to keep losing and keep the faith that things are going to turn around. But, really, it's the only way to get long-term results.

The WWF is going to be in good shape for a long time. It keeps on churning out new talent. WCW might never again beat the WWF in the ratings war, but it doesn't have to. There are plenty of viewers to go around. Besides, I'm sure that nobody in WCW would be upset if *Nitro* lost to *Raw* 4.9 to 4.5 in the ratings every week.

WCW doesn't need Ric Flair. It needs a strong, patient executive who's willing to give Billy Kidman, Reno, Kronik, Mike Awesome, and even Bill Goldberg the chance to develop. It needs to give the fans the chance to get to know these wrestlers.

If Flair's that strong, patient executive, fine. But I don't think patience has ever been Flair's strong suit. □

Behind The Door

(Continued from page 12)

3. Have you been to the beach recently? I ask this question because the average female beach-goer these days wears a lot less clothing than even the skimpiest-clad ECW female, yet ECW fans go crazy whenever Francine or Elektra show off their butts.

4. In the average week, how many times do you watch *The Jerry Springer Show*?

5. Does it really matter who wrestles on an ECW card, as long as people get hurt?

Those were the questions. Upon review, I think it should have been pretty clear that I was having a little fun with the average ECW viewer. *Nobody could take these questions seriously*, I thought. But I was wrong.

Let's go question-by-question. Reader Marquest Houston of Chicago reported that he (Is Marquest a man's name or a woman's name?) had a date the day before he/she wrote to me. But Angelina Brown, also of Chicago (Note to self: Avoid Chicago), gave the more typical answer of respondents when she wrote, "I don't date because I don't have a boyfriend."

That didn't surprise me in the least when I looked at the address label Angelina had attached to her letter. The label had a picture of a big, mustached, muscular person, and I thought, *Boy, she's ugly*. Then I realized the picture was of Buff Bagwell.

Note to Angelina: You'll never get a date if people think you look like Buff Bagwell.

The second question was my favorite, and Jeffrey H. Black (PFC, USMC, by the way), answered, "With curses, definitely."

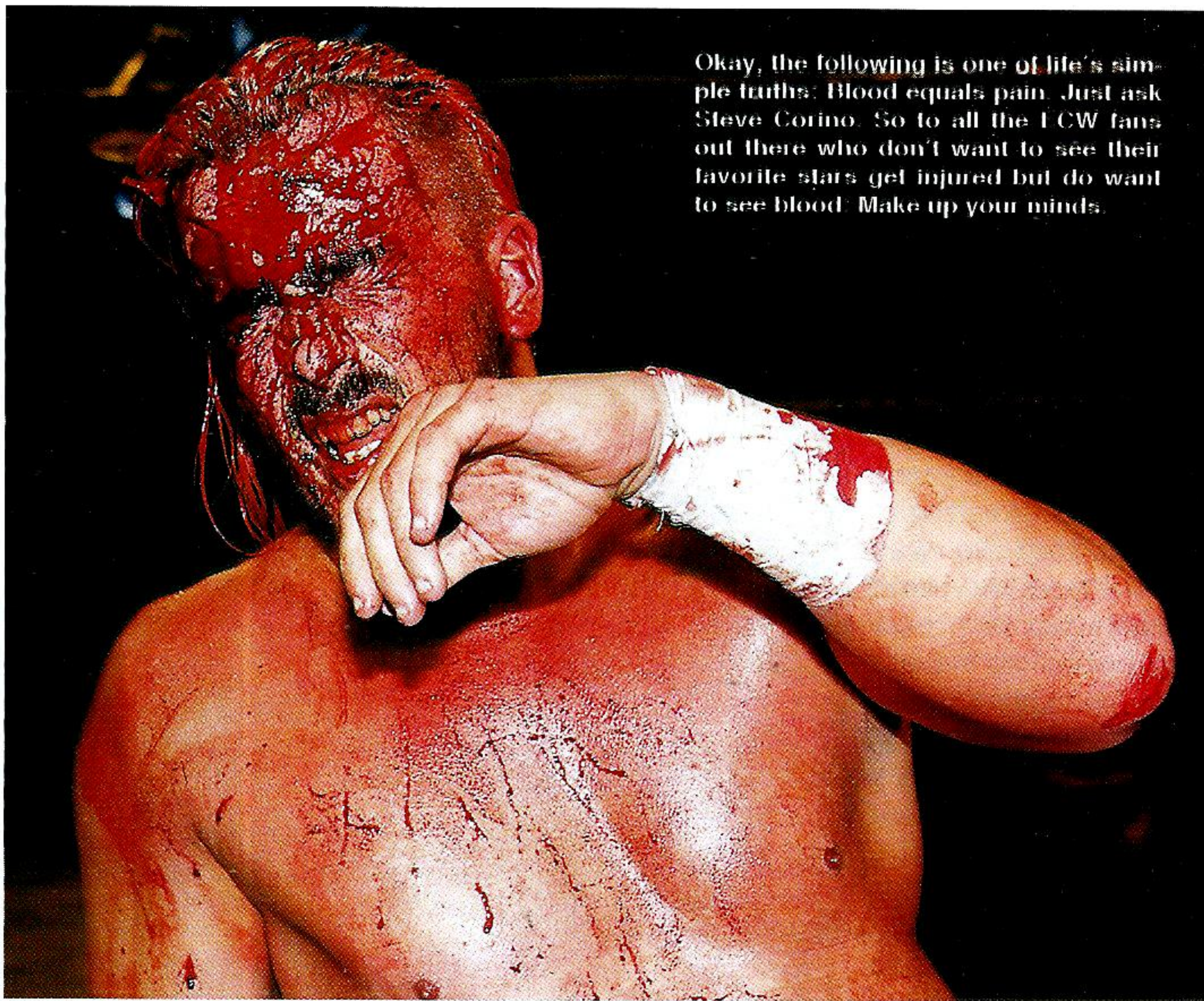
Anyone who has ever seen George Carlin or Chris Rock on TV knows this to be true. I don't know why jokes are funnier with curses inserted. They just are. Put an expletive next to any other word and the other word automatically becomes funnier.

The beach question seemed to be the least reliable indicator of whether a person watches ECW. About 36 percent of respondents said they go to the beach. The other 64 percent said they rarely or never go to the beach. I've always suspected that the average ECW viewer is more pale than the average person, but maybe that's not true. Maybe they just look that way under the lights in their black T-shirts.

Hey, that's another question I should have asked: How many black T-shirts do you own?

Question four: How many times in one week do you watch *Jerry Springer*? Well, suffice to say that if

Okay, the following is one of life's simple truths: Blood equals pain. Just ask Steve Corino. So to all the ECW fans out there who don't want to see their favorite stars get injured but do want to see blood: Make up your minds.



the results of my poll are any indication, *Jerry Springer* should be the highest-rated show in television history. Every person who responded to the poll said he or she watched *Springer* at least twice a week, and most watched it every day.

And, finally, does it matter who wrestles on an ECW card, as long as somebody gets hurt? I'll use Angelina's answer as the typical answer: "Yes, it does matter who wrestles on an ECW card, and I hope they don't get hurt too bad, but I love *blood*." She wrote *blood* in red pen.

Just to let you ECW viewers out there know, blood *is* a sign that somebody has been hurt. We don't just bleed for any reason; we bleed because there's something wrong with our bodies.

But I don't think body problems should be the main concern of ECW viewers. In all truthfulness, I think a lot of them have lost their minds. □

The Insider

(Continued from page 14)

about him to garner an "Introducing" article in *The Wrestler*.

From 1995 on, Corino improved his skills and polished his look, competing in several regional promotions as well as in Memphis and Puerto Rico. I saw him wrestle on several occasions over the next few years, and each time it was evident that he was improving. Every time he wrestled in a new area, he'd climb the ladder of contention, accumulating wins against some of the area's toughest talent. But when he approached a promoter about getting a title shot, he was often shot down. So Corino would be sent back out into the unpredictable world of the independents to "Go Fish" for another title to chase and another promotion to call home.

Well, this little fish eventually found a home in ECW. A small pond compared to the WWF and WCW, but bigger than the little tide pools that are the indies. After floundering for a few months on the preliminary-to-mid-card level, something funky happened. Corino started to gain notoriety for his old-school teachings—and he was feuding with a childhood hero of his, Dusty Rhodes.

From that moment on, Steve Corino was no longer playing "Go Fish." The feeling of living a childhood dream was empowering. No longer would Steve have to rely upon the discretionary nature of independent promoters balking at



There it is, the ECW World title belt high atop Corino's mantle. What better place for a leather belt than on top of a fireplace, where it can catch an errant ember and burn.

giving him a chance to shine as a champion. All of a sudden, he knew he had what it took to be not just a champion, but a world champion. Even the fans got caught up in his newfound confidence. They started cheering for this perennial rulebreaker. They saw that intangible presence in him that we saw back in 1995, and they finally respected him for it.

When Corino found out that he'd get a chance to headline November to Remember, he was elated. When he was told that it would be in a World title match, he

was floored. And after superkicking Justin Credible to set up the winning three-count, he was in a daze. For all of his old-school spoutings, for all the times his requests for title matches against some independent champion were denied, he was finally vindicated. Steve Corino was finally a world champion.

Two days after winning the belt, Steve Corino was still in that daze. As we talked in his living room, he was beaming as he described his victory to me.

"The best part of the night is that my mom was there," he said. "It was so great to have her in the ring with me to celebrate my win."

Steve cherishes family, and it's apparent by the way he interacts with his son. The whole time we were talking, Colby was interrupting us, either asking me to play "Go Fish" or just

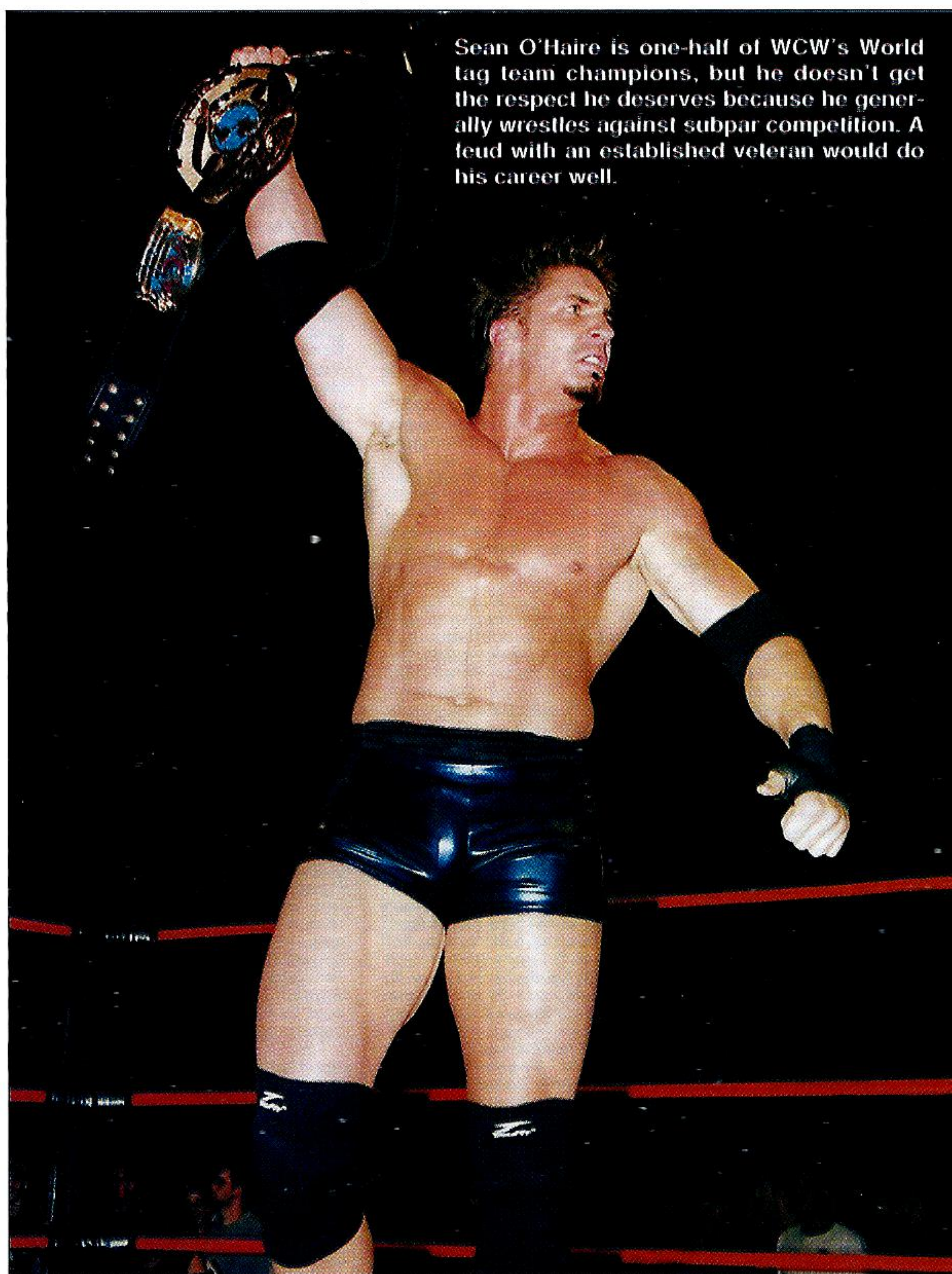
wanting to hold the title belt or be in the photos. Colby seemed just as excited as his father about the title win, even if he didn't fully understand the struggle his dad went through in order to attain that goal.

"Colby, I have to get some photos taken right now," Steve warned. "We'll play 'Go Fish' in a minute. Just let us finish with these photos."

Nowadays, it's nice to know that the only "Go Fish" Steve Corino is playing is the card game with his son. I hope he'll never have to play the wrestling version of "Go Fish" again. □

On Assignment

(Continued from page 16)



Sean O'Haire is one-half of WCW's World tag team champions, but he doesn't get the respect he deserves because he generally wrestles against subpar competition. A feud with an established veteran would do his career well.

Rection is a sentimental choice as champion, but how great is he really? WCW hasn't done a good job of convincing me that he's become much better, and I'm sure most fans haven't been convinced. At least build up Rection as a legitimate force before putting him anywhere near the U.S. title.

All of this is true of cruiserweight champion Mike Sanders. Is he a "Man Of 1,000 Holds" like Dean Malenko? Does he know 500 holds? Okay, I'll settle for 150. I'm

still not convinced Sanders knows that many. I wouldn't even place Sanders in the same league as some cruiserweights still competing in WCW, including Rey Misterio Jr., Lt. Loco, and Billy Kidman. Don't get me wrong. Sanders is a capable wrestler with great potential, but is he good enough to be a highly respected cruiserweight champion? Don't waste your breath trying to convince me.

This gets me back to my original point. I agree that fans were tired of

Hogan, Savage, Hennig, and Piper. But, as reflected by WCW's TV ratings, fans aren't convinced that Jindrak, O'Haire, Rection, and Sanders are as good as Hogan, Savage, Hennig, and Piper.

What's the missing ingredient here?

"I feel for all these guys, I really do," said WCW official Arn Anderson. "I'll tell you exactly what's missing. Russo and everybody were in such a fit to get the veterans out of here that they overlooked one thing: The torch never got passed. The assumption was that once Hogan, Luger, Savage, Piper and those guys were gone, then your Kidmans, Jindraks, O'Haires, and Palumbos would fill that void.

"Well, I don't recall Kidman pinning Hogan's shoulders for a clean three-count. Jindrak and O'Haire never had a chance to beat the Horsemen. Sanders has yet to beat guys still in the company, like Misterio or Kidman. This company has to rethink the way it treats championships. Look, the World tag team title didn't make the Andersons or The Midnight Express great. The Andersons and The Midnight Express made the World tag team title great. Championships are only as good as the men who hold them."

Slowly but surely, some of WCW's established stars are coming back. Lex Luger and Dallas Page are back. Sting and Kevin Nash never really left. It's time for WCW to do the right thing. Create rivalries between the veterans and the younger stars. No more Page vs. Nash or Luger vs. Sting. I want to see Page vs. Palumbo or Luger and Sting vs. Jindrak and O'Haire.

Don't slap championship belts on wrestlers and pretend they're superstars. Give them a chance to defeat the veterans and become real superstars. Make sure the torch gets passed. □

INSIDE WRESTLING'S official ratings

TOP 15

1—BOOKER T

(3) WCW World champion

2—GENICHIRO TENRYU

(-) All-Japan Triple Crown champion

3—KURT ANGLE

(14) WWF World champion

4—STEVE CORINO

(-) ECW World champion

5—THE ROCK

(1) No. 2 contender: WWF World title

6—SCOTT STEINER

(-) No. 2 contender: WCW World title

7—EDDIE GUERRERO

(12) WWF Intercontinental champion

8—RHINO

(7) ECW TV champion

9—THE UNDERTAKER

(10) No. 3 contender: WWF World title

10—LANCE STORM

(4) WCW U.S. champion

11—TRIPLE-H

(8) No. 4 contender: WWF World title

12—GEN. RECTION

(-) No. 3 contender: WCW World title

13—JERRY LYNN

(-) No. 2 contender: ECW World title

14—CHRIS JERICO

(-) No. 5 contender: WWF World title

15—KENSUKE SASAKI

(5) No. 1 contender: IWGP heavyweight title

WCW

1—BOOKER T

(1) 250, Houston, TX

2—LANCE STORM

(2) 231, Calgary, Alberta

3—SCOTT STEINER

(6) 275, Detroit, MI

4—GEN. RECTION

(10) 310, Titusville, FL

5—BILL GOLDBERG

(8) 283, Tulsa, OK

6—STING

(7) 260, Venice Beach, CA

7—JEFF JARRETT

(5) 230, Nashville, TN

8—MIKE AWESOME

(4) 285, Tampa, FL

9—KEVIN NASH

(3) 356, Detroit, MI

10—CROWBAR

(-) 232, Pacific Palisades, CA

11—MIKE SANDERS

(-) 230, Atlanta, GA

12—THE CAT

(13) 235, Atlanta, GA

13—LEX LUGER

(-) 275, Chicago, IL

14—RENO

(-) 240, Buffalo, NY

15—BIG VITO

(12) 265, Staten Island, NY

WWF

1—KURT ANGLE

(6) 233, Pittsburgh, PA

2—EDDIE GUERRERO

(2) 221, El Paso, TX

3—THE ROCK

(1) 272, Miami, FL

4—THE UNDERTAKER

(5) 328, Death Valley, CA

5—TRIPLE-H

(4) 284, Greenwich, CT

6—CHRIS JERICO

(10) 225, Winnipeg, Manitoba

7—STEVE AUSTIN

(-) 252, Victoria, TX

8—WILLIAM REGAL

(-) 257, Blackpool, England

9—STEVE BLACKMAN

(8) 245, Annnville, PA

10—RIKISHI

(12) 424, San Francisco, CA

11—CHYNA

(11) 201, Nashua, NH

12—CHRIS BENOIT

(3) 218, Edmonton, Alberta

13—KANE

(7) 345, parts unknown

14—BILLY GUNN

(-) 268, Austin, TX

15—VAL VENIS

(9) 250, Oakville, Ontario

ECW

1—STEVE CORINO

(6) 219, Sea Isle City, NJ

2—RHINO

(2) 285, Detroit, MI

3—JERRY LYNN

(4) 224, Minneapolis, MN

4—JUSTIN CREDIBLE

(1) 227, Waterbury, CT

5—THE SANDMAN

(9) 244, Philadelphia, PA

6—KID KASH

(5) 202, Johnson City, TN

7—C.W. ANDERSON

(14) 230, Raleigh, NC

8—NEW JACK

(-) 225, Philadelphia, PA

9—SCOTT HALL

(-) 290, Miami, FL

10—NOVA

(-) 214, Bricktown, NJ

11—SUPER CRAZY

(-) 215, Mexico City, Mexico

12—MIKEY WHIPWRECK

(15) 204, New York, NY

13—ROB VAN DAM

(3) 237, Battle Creek, MI

14—YOSHIHIRO TAJIRI

(8) 224, Tokyo, Japan

15—ROADKILL

(12) 325, Lancaster, PA

INTERNATIONAL

1—GENICHIRO TENRYU

(-) 235, Tokyo, Japan

2—KENSUKE SASAKI

(1) 251, Tokyo, Japan

3—JUN AKIYAMA

(3) 225, Hiroshima, Japan

4—BLUE PANTHER

(-) 215, Mexico City, Mexico

5—SCORPIO JR.

(-) 195, Nezahualcoyotl, Mexico

6—KENTA KOBASHI

(13) 282, Fukuchiyama, Japan

7—MANABU NAKANISHI

(-) 235, Tokyo, Japan

8—TOSHIKI KAWADA

(2) 245, Ashikaga, Japan

9—RAYO DE JALISCO JR.

(7) 270, Guadalajara, Mexico

10—MASA CHONO

(6) 235, Tokyo, Japan

11—STAN HANSEN

(-) 322, Borger, TX

12—MITSU HARU MISAWA

(10) 228, Ashikaga, Japan

13—DR. WAGNER JR.

(8) 215, Mexico City, Mexico

14—GARY STEELE

(9) 241, London, England

15—YUJI NAGATA

(-) 228, Tokyo, Japan

TOP 15 TAG TEAMS

1—MARK JINDRAK & SEAN O'HAIRE

(15) WCW World tag team champions

2—JEFF & MATT HARDY

(5) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title

3—TONY MAMALUKE & LITTLE GUIDO MARITATO

(4) ECW World tag team champions

4—BULL BUCHANAN & THE GOODFATHER

(14) WWF World tag team champions

5—SATOSHI KOJIMA & HIROYOSHI TENZAN

(2) IWGP International tag team champions

6—CHRISTIAN & EDGE

(1) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title

7—KRONIC

(11) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title

8—BUH BUH RAY & D-VON DUDLEY

(8) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title

9—DANNY DORING & ROADKILL

(12) No. 1 contenders: ECW World tag title

10—TEST & ALBERT

(6) No. 4 contenders: WWF World tag title

11—DISQO & ALEX WRIGHT

(-) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title

12—YOSHIHIRO TAJIRI & MIKEY WHIPWRECK

(7) No. 2 contenders: ECW World tag title

13—BILLY KIDMAN & REY MISTERIO JR.

(-) No. 3 contenders: WCW World tag title

14—TOO COOL

(13) No. 5 contenders: WWF World tag title

15—CPL. CAJUN & LT. LOCO

(-) No. 4 contenders: WCW World tag title

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue ... Championships highlighted in bold on the "Roll Call Of Champions" have changed hands since our previous issue ... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

For period ended November 16, 2000

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

ALL-JAPAN TRIPLE INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: GENICHIRO TENRYU

(October 28, 2000; beat Toshiaki Kawada in tournament final; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(Most recently held by Toshiaki Kawada & Akira Taue)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: GENICHIRO TENRYU

(October 28, 2000; beat Toshiaki Kawada in tournament final; Tokyo, Japan)

EAST COAST WRESTLING ASSOCIATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:

J.J. THE RING CREW GUY

(October 14, 2000; from Inferno; Laurel, DE)

EAST COAST WRESTLING ASSOCIATION MID-ATLANTIC CHAMPION:
GLEN OSBOURNE

(March 25, 2000; from Ty Street; Wilmington, DE)

EAST COAST WRESTLING ASSOCIATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

THE HAAS BROTHERS

(April 14, from Inferno Kid & Scoot Andrews; New London, CT)

ECW TELEVISION CHAMPION: RHINO

(September 9, 2000; from Kid Kash; Mississauga, Ontario)

ECW WORLD CHAMPION: STEVE CORINO

(November 5, 2000; beat Justin Credible; Villa Park, IL)

ECW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

LITTLE GUIDO MARITATO & TONY MAMALUKE

(August 26, 2000; from Yoshihiro Tajiri & Mikey Whipwreck; New York, NY)

IWGP HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(Most recently held by Kensuke Sasaki)

IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

SATOSHI KOJIMA & HIROYOSHI TENZAN

(July 20, 2000; from Yuji Nagata & Manabu Nakanishi; Sapporo, Japan)

IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MINORU TANAKA

(October 29, 2000; from Tatsuhito Takaiwa; Kobe, Japan)

MARYLAND CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING CRUISERWEIGHT CHAMPION:

CHAD BOWMAN

(April 14, 2000; from Adam Flash; Annapolis, MD)

MARYLAND CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:

JIMMY CICERO

(July 19, 2000; from The Bruiser; Glen Burnie, MD)

MARYLAND CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

CHRISTOPHER CARMICHAEL & DINO DIVINE

(August 2, 2000; won four-way match; Ocean City, MD)

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SABU

(November 14, 2000; from Mike Rapada; Tampa, FL)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:

GENICHIRO TENRYU

(October 28, 2000; beat Toshiaki Kawada in tournament final; Tokyo, Japan)

PENNSYLVANIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING AMERICAS CHAMPION:

BRIAN LOGAN

(May 12, 2000; beat Alex Arion for vacant title; Hamburg, PA)

PENNSYLVANIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:

BUCK WYLDE

(November 10, 2000; from Ty Street; Hamburg, PA)

PENNSYLVANIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

CHEETAH MASTER & J.J. JOHNSTON

(September 7, 2000; from The Haas Brothers; Reading, PA)

WCW CRUISERWEIGHT CHAMPION: MIKE SANDERS

(October 2, 2000; from Elix Skipper; San Francisco, CA)

WCW Hardcore CHAMPION: CROWBAR

(November 6, 2000; from Reno; Chicago, IL)

WCW U.S. CHAMPION: LANCE STORM

(November 10, 2000; from Gen. Rection; London, England)

WCW WORLD CHAMPION: BOOKER T

(October 2, 2000; beat Jeff Jarrett; San Francisco, CA)

WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

MARK JINDRAK & SEAN O'HAIRE

(October 9, 2000; from Cpl. Cajun & Lt. Loco; Sydney, Australia)

WWF EUROPEAN CHAMPION: WILLIAM REGAL

(October 16, 2000; from Al Snow; Detroit, MI)

WWF Hardcore CHAMPION: STEVE BLACKMAN

(September 24, 2000; from Perry Saturn; Philadelphia, PA)

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: EDDIE GUERRERO

(September 4, 2000; from Chyna; Lexington, KY)

WWF LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DEAN MALENKO

(April 25, 2000; from Scotty Too Hotty; Charlotte, NC)

WWF WOMEN'S CHAMPION: IVORY

(October 31, 2000; from Lita; Rochester, NY)

WWF WORLD CHAMPION: KURT ANGLE

(October 22, 2000; from The Rock; Albany, NY)

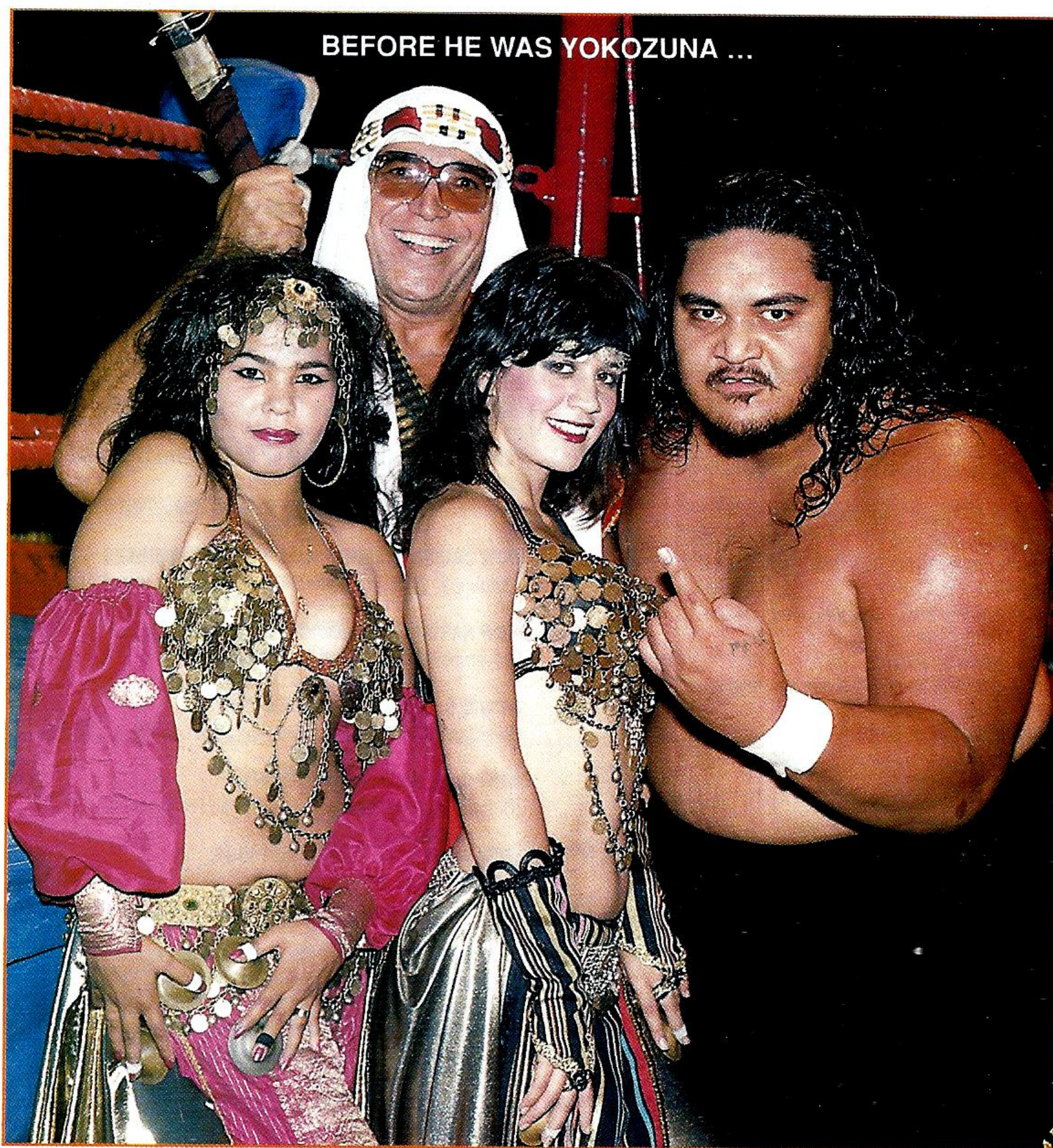
WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

BULL BUCHANAN & THE GOODFATHER

(November 6, 2000; from The Hardy Boyz; Hartford, CT)

BLAST
from the past

This Month In Wrestling History



SHEIK ADNAN AL-KAISSIE, KOKINA MAXIMUS, & TWO HAREM GIRLS March 1990

Though Rodney Anoa'i will be best remembered for his two WWF World heavyweight title runs in the early-1990s as Yokozuna (he also captured the WWF World tag team title with Owen Hart in 1995), he also wrestled as a host of other colorful characters during his career, the most flashy of which was the AWA's Kokina Maximus. Sadly, Anoa'i was found dead in his hotel room on October 23 during a tour of England. He was only 34.

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